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Genius who made this building stay up
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Britain will veto common EU tax

By CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND PHILIP WEBSTER

LABOUR'S honeymoon with Europe was under strain last night after France and Germany demanded an end to Britain's and other countries' veto on European tax decisions.

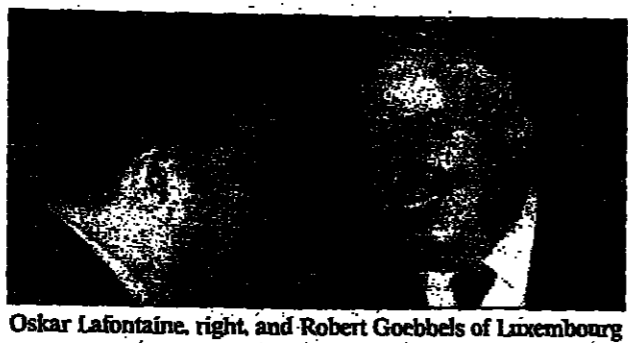
The demand, by Oskar Lafontaine and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the German and French Finance Ministers, left Britain looking increasingly isolated in the row over the harmonization of European taxes.

Herr Lafontaine's intervention, coming soon after Gordon Brown had vowed to block any attempts to impose Europe-wide tax rates, provoked astonished reactions in the British Government.

After months in which it has carefully cultivated an image of harmonious relations with the European Union, the old language of vetoes reappeared last night in London. Stephen Byers, Treasury Chief Secretary, told the Commons that Britain would veto any attempts to change business tax rates. VAT on food, children's clothes, books and newspapers, and that it would veto the EU's proposed "withholding tax" unless it was changed to protect the London Eurobond market.

As the hardened line emerged, British officials showed growing impatience with Herr Lafontaine who appears to be revelling in his guise as the Eurosceptic's new bogymen. "We understand that it takes a little time for the new German Government to settle down, but hardened diplomats are astonished at the disarray they are showing," one said.

Tony Blair's press spokesman said that there was not a "cat's chance in Hell" of Herr Lafontaine's proposal to end



Oskar Lafontaine, right, and Robert Goebbels of Luxembourg

tax vetoes succeeding. It was pointed out by British officials that such a change would require a unanimous vote - and that Britain was among several countries that would oppose it - as well as an amendment of the EU's founding treaty.

But the intervention by the two finance ministers at the Brussels finance council seemed aimed at compounding British embarrassment. Mr Brown had been striving to limit the damage caused by Britain's resistance to current tax measures and to play down the scope of EU plans.

In a display of French humour, M. Strauss-Kahn hugged himself and gave a mock shiver of horror when asked about London's likely reaction to his veto idea.

Mr Brown said the Franco-German idea was "simply not going to happen".

Herr Lafontaine and M. Strauss-Kahn demonstrated their impatience with British opposition to tax harmonisation

gle currency to forge ahead with "levelling the fiscal playfield" inside their zone.

Both ministers also said that the EU must move to set minimum rates for corporate taxation, an idea not yet officially on the table and flatly rejected yesterday by Mr Brown. M. Strauss-Kahn said fixing minimum rates "is the whole idea of the operation" to harmonise taxes.

Himself in humorous mood, Herr Lafontaine wondered whether British views on tax harmonisation were distorted by its island geography. Petrol in Britain was the dearest in Europe because drivers could not simply cross the border to fill up in lower-tax states as their continental cousins could, he said.

The Franco-German duo, who have become a formidable force in EU policy-making, each said that they were talking about the future and had not brought up the veto or minimum taxes at yesterday's session of the Ecofin, or finance council, which was devoted to the present package of tax measures. However their decision to air such explosive ideas with the media seemed to be a deliberate provocation as Britain hesitates about joining monetary union.

Mr Brown dismissed the Franco-German talk of scrapping vetoes on the ground that any such move would itself be subject to veto. "Tax proposals require unanimity and even a change to that requires a treaty change which requires unanimity and that is simply not going to happen," he said. He also said that there was no reason for establishing minimum rates for business tax.

The Chancellor appeared to be following Downing Street's line, sketched yesterday by the Prime Minister's spokesman. Continued on page 2, col 1

Move to save duty-free

BRITAIN sided with France and Germany yesterday to win a reprieve for the duty-free industry in the European Union.

The sale of cheap alcohol, tobacco and perfumes when crossing borders is due to be

abolished next July. At stake are 100,000 jobs and a business of £5 billion. But Britain's attempt is unlikely to succeed since a majority of EU states are opposed to it.

Gordon Brown's call, page 2



Joella Holliday, who has won her fight to be registered as a girl. She will now be allowed to marry when she comes of age

Joella is classed as a girl at last

By ADRIAN LEE

A GIRL who was officially classed as a boy for the first ten years of her life has won a long fight to have her birth certificate changed.

Joella Holliday was christened Joel but, because she was suffering from a rare medical condition, underwent an operation at the age of 17 months to give her a better quality of life as a girl.

Following an eight-year battle by her mother, the Office of National Statistics has taken the unusual step of allowing the sex on her birth certificate to be altered.

Joella will be renamed in a ceremony later this month and the ruling means she will

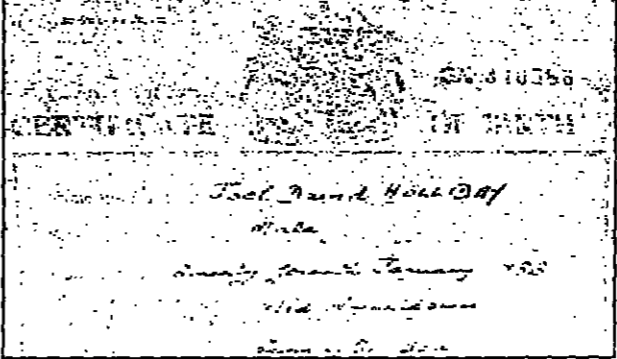
eventually be allowed to marry. However, the ruling will not allow transsexuals who change their gender to alter their birth certificates.

Born without several internal body parts, Joella was raised as a boy for a year. Then doctors told her mother, Julia Farmer, of Finchbeck,

Lincolnshire, that the child's only chance for a normal adult life was an operation to make her female.

Mrs Farmer, 30, said: "I think we should set a day from which we should start treating her as a girl. We chose her first birthday and put her to bed as a boy. The next morning we put on a dress and she became Joella."

An application shortly after the operation to have the birth certificate changed was refused. Her mother enlisted the help of Professor Charles Brook of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, who argued that Joella was born with characteristics of both sexes and that it had been a mistake to register her as a boy.



The birth certificate registering Joella as Joel David

Linear B sleuth Chadwick dies

John Chadwick, the Cambridge philologist, has died aged 78. With Michael Ventris he was instrumental in deciphering the ancient Linear B script on clay tablets from Crete. Page 23

Times appeal

The Times Christmas Appeal, for research into Alzheimer's disease, a project to save cheetahs and building a bridge wrecked by Hurricane Mitch in Honduras, is launched today. Pages 6, 21

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Rail company charged with manslaughter

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

Great Western Trains is being prosecuted for corporate manslaughter over the deaths of seven passengers in the Southall rail crash in September last year.

The company is also facing a prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive under the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act. The prosecution alleges that Great Western "failed to conduct an undertaking, namely the provision of transport by rail to members of the public, in such a way as to ensure that the public were not exposed to risks to their health and safety".

Seven died and 147 were injured in the crash when the 10.32 Swansea to London express run by Great Western Trains was in collision with an empty freight train on 19 September. The driver of the ex-

press, Larry Harrison, 51, from Gravesend, Kent, has already been charged with seven counts of manslaughter and is due to reappear in court on Friday.

The seven manslaughter summonses were served on the company yesterday by officers by British Transport Police after investigations by a special team of detectives. If the company is convicted it would face unlimited fines in a case which could mark a legal milestone.

The summonses and the HSE charge are returnable to Ealing magistrates' court near the scene of the crash on January 12. Because the case involves a company the dock will either be empty or an official from Great Western, such as the company secretary, will be present.

For the past year the BTP team under Detective Superintendent Graham Sachwell, one of the force's most senior detectives, have been investigating the background to the crash. Officers have interviewed other GWR drivers and also several directors of the company.

A public inquiry into the accident was opened in February 1998 but adjourned after just two hours pending the outcome of any prosecutions that might be brought.

Yesterday Des Collins, senior partner of Collins solicitors of Watford, Hertfordshire, whose firm represents about 40 people either injured or bereaved by the Southall crash, said: "It is vitally important in cases like this that we look beyond the first cause of a railway accident.

Oil merger forges new global giant

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE business world's record books were rewritten again yesterday as Exxon, the Esso oil giant, took over its American rival Mobil in a deal worth \$82 billion (£60 billion).

The takeover, the biggest in the history of world stockmarkets, shattered the records set and reset again and again this year by corporate America's wave of mergers and acquisitions. The Exxon Mobil behemoth, with \$200 billion of sales worldwide, reshapes the global oil industry, propelling the company ahead of the Anglo-Dutch combine Shell and BP, the British company which only recently took over America's Amoco.

The deal was confirmed during another hectic day of takeovers. Total of France bought its Belgian rival Petrofina. In addition, giant German industrial concern Hoechst clinched

a major link-up with the French pharmaceuticals company, Rhône-Poulenc. This year has already seen a wave of telecommunications and banking mergers in the US, the previous record of \$76 billion having been set by two phone companies, SBC and Ameritech.

Exxon Mobil, which will power one in five of America's cars, will come close to recreating the legendary business empire of John D. Rockefeller. The Supreme Court broke up Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company 87 years ago because it had monopolised the energy market.

Executives are set to reap up to £50 million each and the fees earned by bankers at Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan will be huge.

Record deal, page 25

Turner Prize proves the ordure of the day

By DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ELEPHANTS at London Zoo have enabled an artist to win £20,000 for this year's Turner Prize. Chris Ofili, who uses dried dung in his paintings, gets his supplies from the Elephant House in Regent's Park and was last night presented with the award at the Tate Gallery.

Ofili was outright favourite to win from the moment the shortlist - which included Cathy de Monchaux, Tacha Dean and Sam Taylor-Wood - was announced.

Even the controversy of his choice of material - not to mention titles such as *Afro-dixia* and *glued-on cut-outs from pornographic magazines* - pales against the outcry over Damien Hirst's pickled and sliced cows in 1995.

The Turner Prize is open to British artists under 50 for an outstanding exhibition during the previous 12 months. Ofili, 29, who was born in Manchester to a Nigerian family, is the first painter to win since Howard Hodgkin in 1985.

The idea of using dung - which he sprinkles with glitter and studs with map pins - came to him after a trip to Zimbabwe, where there was a lot of it about. According to Michela Parkin of the Tate Gallery, he had been frustrated with his work: "One day, he thought, 'I'm going to chuck this stuff at the paintings'. That's how it started."

Among recent compositions is *Rodin - The Thinker* in which a scantily-clad woman is said to have been inspired by a photograph published in a pornographic magazine and by Rodin's famous sculpture.

Balls of dung bear the title's words.

Tate Gallery curators have likened Ofili's paintings to the visionary imagery of William Blake, and critics have hailed the complexity of imagery which addresses stereotypes of black culture, identity and sexuality.

But others have been less inspired. Brian Sewell, in the *Evening Standard*, exclaimed: "I am sick of shit masquerading as art." David Lee, editor of *Art Review*, dismissed the use of dung as a gimmick.

The jury included Neil Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys, the author Marina Warner, British Council exhibition officer Ann Gallagher and Japanese curator Fumio Nanjo, as well as the Tate Gallery's director Nicholas Serota. For them, Ofili's paintings exude an "inventiveness, exuberance, humour and technical richness".

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Time to take a relaxing break with baiting by numbers

The Clerk will now proceed to read the orders of the day.

As the late Tom Driberg MP once remarked, once you realise that this daily proclamation from the Chair can be sung to the tune of John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in his grave, it becomes impossible to take it seriously.

Yet as the century ends, Commons proceedings resemble a more silted libretto than even Tom Driberg dreamed. Yesterday the reduction of Parliament to kindergarten sing-song took another gues-



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

some step. Labour whips had prepared for a Tory onslaught in a debate on the economy by circulating crib-notes with 'im-promptu' interruptions among the MPs sitting behind ministers. These 'Suggested Interventions' listed killer-questions, numbered one to ten, with which eager new Labour jellies were to interrupt the Tory Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude.

Armed with scripts, Labour backbenchers filed obediently in, and sat there rehearsing silently, the smarter ones managing the read-through with-

out moving their lips. But — catastrophe. Someone had left, and a Tory had found, a copy of this crib-sheet on a Westminster photocopy.

The Tory had circulated copies. Now all his side had the list too. On Tory copies the informant had scrawled: "Recovered from a photocopier. Tee-Hee!"

Tee-Hee! was about the level of it. Tory kiddies were cock-a-hoop, Labour kiddies all but sucking their thumbs in a stultic.

Minutes into Francis Maude's speech, one of his

own side, Howard Flight (S Downs) leaped up. Revealing how he had come by his question, Mr Flight told Maude he planned to save Labour backbenchers trouble by asking it for them: "Question 2: Can the Shadow Chancellor tell this House why he is opposing the extra £40 billion for our public services that this Government is investing?" Armed with the

list, Maude had his answer ready. Labour should have cut their losses but the command on their pagers came too late to abort an attack by Geraint Davies (Lab, Croydon Central). Would the Conservatives scrap Bank of England independence — yes or no?

"Question ten! Ten!" squealed delighted Tories. Fools rush in. Dale Camp-

bell-Saviours (Lab, Working-ton) asked Maude about Tory policy on the minimum wage. "Eight! Eight!" the Opposition chorused. By the time Maude sat down, supplies of the list had reached the Press Gallery too. I was able to tick off questions one, two, six, eight and ten, all asked.

And Madam Speaker was handed the list. We followed Miss Boothroyd's amused smiles as she followed Government backbenchers following their own script.

This sketch has a modest proposal to make. Modernised

Commons procedure, widely applauded, has long removed the need for backbenchers to read out their questions already pre-notified to ministers, and listed on the Order Paper. They just call out the number.

So why not do the same with interruptions, too? And hecklers? In fact, why not number the responses as well, and call out numbers in place of answers?

Instead of a Tory shouting "When are you going to get waiting lists down?", Dennis Skinner heckling "Ow many

of you lot are on BUPA then", the minister replying "I'll take no lessons from a party who, for 18 years..." (etc) — and Miss Boothroyd telling them all to shut up — it would go like this:

Tory 7.
Mr Skinner: 161 (laughter)
Minister: 2 (hon Members hear, hear)
Madam Speaker: Order! 11
said 11
And in place of this sketch's wellworn denunciation of the MPs' poodle-parlour, *The Times* could just print: Commons sketch 22.

Brown calls for duty-free sales to be reprieved

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HOPES that duty-free shopping would be given a reprieve were raised last night after Gordon Brown backed a Franco-German move to delay its abolition for five years.

Duty-free sales within the EU were to be scrapped on June 30 next year, but the Chancellor had joined Germany and France in calling for abolition to be delayed for five years, pending a review, for fear that it could result in up to 100,000 job losses in Europe.

However, the last-minute bid to reopen the issue appeared to founder as fewer than half the EU's finance min-

isters supported the move. Britain, Ireland, Germany and France were the only member states to call for a new inquiry. The Scandinavian countries still oppose it.

Speaking before a meeting of EU finance ministers in Brussels, Mr Brown said that any reprieve would have to be backed by all 15 EU members. However, Britain has been encouraged by the change in the German position, and argues that with France they could influence smaller states.

Before the German elections, Mr Brown had accepted that Britain would never se-

cure enough support in the EU for a reprieve. Chancellor Kohl had been implacably opposed to duty-free sales, which are worth about £5 billion across Europe and £1 billion in the UK. But his successor, Gerhard Schröder, pledged to fight against abolition during his election campaign and is behind the move to get the issue reopened.

Yesterday Mr Brown said that he had always been ready to back the issue if unanimity could be achieved, but that he was careful not to be too optimistic. "The new German government is prepared to look at it again and we are as well. But you cannot raise expectations in people by saying that all other governments are in the same position," he said.

Earlier this year John Prescott expressed his concern about ending duty-free sales due to the economic impact on ports, airports and the ferry industry.

The Duty-Free Confederation argues that there has been no official study of the economic impact and that no alternative arrangements have been proposed. It claims that more than 30,000 jobs are at risk in Britain, and that airlines and ferry operators would have to increase their fare prices.

Britain 'will use veto'

Continued from page 1

the elimination of "harmful discriminatory taxation practices," he said. The aim is a non-binding code that would target such practices as tax concessions for foreign investors and free enterprise zones. Mr Brown said a tax concession for the British film industry could be justified, although it was on the EU's target list as discriminatory.

The ministers agreed to speed the code of conduct, so as to finish by the end of the German presidency next June.



THE Duke of York, an experienced helicopter pilot, is clearly pleased to be able to try out the cockpit of the Royal Navy's newest acquisition yesterday (Michael Evans writes).

The Duke, who flew in the Falklands conflict, was at RNAS Culdrose in Cornwall for the commissioning ceremony for the Merlin EH101, which is to replace the Navy's ageing Sea King machines over the next five years. It was designed in the late 1980s during the Cold War to hunt for Russian submarines.

Although the Russian submarine threat is no longer what it was, the Merlin is still seen as a vital new weapon system. The Merlin is the naval version of the collaborative Anglo-Italian EH101 helicopter programme that also produced a transport helicopter for the RAF. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said: "I am delighted to see the product of this complex but successful collaborative programme begin to bear fruit."

The Merlin, which has three Rolls Royce engines and can operate in all weathers, has suffered from sharp cost increases and delays due to technical problems.

The Navy has ordered 44 Merlins at a cost of more than £1 billion. The development programme, which included the design of the RAF version, cost another £3.5 billion. It will operate from Type 23 frigates and aircraft carriers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pro-lifers call for boycott of Boots

An anti-abortion charity has called for a boycott of Boots pharmacies after it emerged that a new drop-in clinic at one store is willing to give free contraception to children below the age of consent. The campaign group Life Against Boots of promoting promiscuity and claimed that the clinic, which opens in Glasgow tomorrow, will spread abortions and sexually transmitted diseases. "It is disgraceful that Boots are promoting under-age sex," said a spokeswoman.

The drop-in clinic, at Boots in the St Enoch shopping centre in Glasgow is controlled by the Glasgow NHS Trust. If the 12-month pilot is successful, it could lead to clinics being opened in other stores. Boots spokeswoman said: "We strongly refute any suggestion that our involvement in this health initiative signifies an irresponsible attitude towards contraception."

Muslims in jail

The Prison Service is to appoint a Muslim adviser to help it develop further its policies towards the 4,000 muslim prisoners in England and Wales. The two-year appointment will be on a full or part-time basis and carry a salary from £27,000 to £43,000 a year. Lord Williams, the prisons minister, said it was important that the prison service was fully aware of Muslim faith issues.

Ministers override peers on election Bill

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSTITUTIONAL history will be made today when the provisions of the Parliament Act are activated for only the seventh time this century.

The Act, which allows the Commons to force legislation onto the statute book without the agreement of the Lords, will be applied to the Bill reforming the way Euro-MPs are elected. The European Parliamentary Elections Bill, which introduces proportional representation for next summer's poll, was lost in the last session after suffering five defeats in the House of Lords.

Peers insisted that voters should have the right to express a preference for a candidate. The Government, however, said that voters should determine the number of seats a party received, but that the parties should decide who became their MEPs.

The Government will today reintroduce the same Bill and use guillotine procedures to rush the measure through all its stages in the Commons in just four hours. The Bill will then be sent up to the Lords, where it is likely to be considered by peers for its second reading in two weeks' time.

Sleaze guardians get tougher with themselves

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE guardians of standards in public life are to impose tough new anti-sleaze rules on themselves.

Lord Neill of Bladen, QC, the public standards watchdog, has insisted that he and his team should comply with a new code of conduct. The aim is to put in place a code that could act as a model for other quangos and public bodies.

Among the proposals are for the Committee on Standards in Public Life to publish a register of member's interests; to hold meetings in public; to publish an annual report; and to abide by strict rules on giving and receiving hospitality.

Lord Neill is also in favour of a formal mechanism to deal with any complaints.

"Interests" would include all interests relating to cash, whether direct or indirect, including those of close family members or those living in the same household. This might extend to partners, parents, children, brothers, sisters and in-laws.

The clean-up drive was not prompted by the furore in the summer when it emerged that Lord Neill had been retained to give legal advice to Dame Shirley Porter, the former Westminster City Council leader who could face a £27 million surcharge, nor is it connected to any other incident.

Lord Neill — who earns £500 a day for his part-time watchdog role — no longer advises Dame Shirley, but believes that it would be unrealistic for a code to impose professional restrictions on members of his committee or other quangos, particularly given that most people hold part-time posts. In some cases individuals are picked specifically for their expertise in a particular area.

Lord Neill believes that people should not be barred from a post because of their connections or any apparent conflict of interest, but that the key is to register the interests so that transparency and public confidence is upheld. The Committee on Standards in Public Life is to discuss in the coming weeks what should be included in a code.

Lord Neill's project coincides with a separate drive from the Cabinet Office to clean up quangos. Senior Whitehall officials have circulated draft rules to public bodies and quangos setting out new anti-sleaze rules.

'Good' shopping

Richard Briers, the star of the television sitcom *The Good Life*, has helped to launch a guide of the same name for "ethical" Christmas shopping. Drawn up by the World Development Movement, it advises consumers on how to put pressure on companies that exploit their workers in the Third World and urges them to pay a bit more for goods that come with guarantees of fair pay and conditions.

Curb on benefits

Measures to cut benefit fraud, including tighter scrutiny of those making initial claims, were announced by Alistair Darling, the Social Security Secretary. All claimants will have to show more evidence of their need for support before payments are made, he said. Documents showing savings, pay slips and any occupational pensions will have to be shown within 28 days of claims will be invalid.

Cod in the act

A 71-year-old woman who fished a teapot and a plate of fish and chips, causing a robbery with a pistol to flee from a cafe in Llanelli, West Wales, was praised at Carmarthen Crown Court Judge Michael Evans said Winifred Curran had launched her assault not knowing the gun was unloaded. Joshua Inksman, 37, who was caught outside, was jailed for ten years.

'Risk pensions on high-tech firms'

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PENSION managers will today be told by the Trade Secretary, Peter Mandelson, to take more risks with their funds by gambling on the success of fledgling high-tech ventures.

The message is part of a series of moves designed to foster a new era of British entrepreneurship amidst the technological revolution. Mr Mandelson will officially set out the details in a competitive White Paper next week, aimed at developing British innovation into global companies.

It is aimed chiefly at firms that are pioneering new techniques in information technology and biotechnology. At the heart of the proposals, to be published tomorrow, will be a £10 million fund for re-

gional development agencies to bolster such firms by borrowing ideas from Silicon Valley in America.

They include changing planning laws to make it easier for firms to work alongside each other in clusters and to promote more collaboration among them.

A Government action team, headed by a Minister, will work to boost bio-tech firms. The rules governing the Department of Trade and Industry's regional assistance will be re-written to target high-tech firms.

Mr Mandelson may also put government money into helping new high-tech firms off the ground. "We are not going to go into the serious venture capital business. But we can provide some seed fi-

nance of a modest nature to promote enterprise and give some back up to new start-ups," he said.

At today's meeting with the National Association of Pension Funds, the Institute of Fund Managers and the Association of British Insurers, Mr Mandelson will say he believes the pension industry has a critical role. He will tell the groups they are too cautious when it comes to investing, preferring the orthodoxy of the City's top 100 companies.

The message will be warmly welcomed by the venture capital sector, which has complained that British pension funds allocate 0.75 per cent of their assets into risk investments, while in America the figure is more than 5 per cent.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2 1998

Oxford suspen... in fe...

Victoria Fletcher... are refusing...

Giant Ha... killed by...

THE wreckage... sacks - low-w... with Big Daddy... cancer.

The fighter... name was Mario... home with Pe... French, Man... died on Mond... year's struggl... these.

His former pre... Calbre said: "H... and always p... had only but... his and his three... The wrecker, S... gone survey and... try to remove a... of a... in Manchester and... had fallen from... stone to 24-sto... In his prime, th... traced a televi... up to 16 million... alone would co... Webbit, 3lb of... enages and a leaf... interviewed in... year the star... was to thrash... none or beat f... legs out of the... his greatest jo... not waking up...

Let us p...

By RUTH GARDNER, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

KNEEING is no longer the scary when praying the Church of England has announced on its new web site which also gives a simple list of things to pray for.

How to start? Lay your feet to bring your mind down to earth things to pray for. Church advice, illustrating a band in case the minister is not clear.

The Church's official website announced yesterday that kneeling is the traditional way of praying but you don't have to.

The content of the website is an indication of how serious the Church feels the message has become. It compares the discipline of praying in a

Oxford ready to suspend women in fees protest

Victoria Fletcher on a dispute over two students who are refusing to pay towards their university education

OXFORD University is preparing to suspend two women students for refusing to pay their £1,000 tuition fees. The suspension, which will take effect from the start of next term, would effectively end the academic career of the Balliol undergraduates Kate Atkinson and Alice Nash, who would be banned from setting foot on university premises or using vital facilities including the library.

Both women are middle-class and can afford the fees, but are refusing to pay on principle. Miss Atkinson, 18, who is studying PPE, was the deputy headgirl at the prestigious, independent school, Roden and is the daughter of a Department of Trade and Industry civil servant from East Sussex. Miss Nash, a 19-year-old student of history, attended Britain's top sixth-form college, Hills Road in Cambridge, and has already been given the £1,000 fees by her parents.

The women say that they are protesting for future generations of poorer students, who may abandon university because of the cost.

Miss Nash said: "People assume tuition fees have been accepted and it's all done and dusted. But we are going to make a stand against it. We are not decided to stop our campaign because of this threat of suspension and we will continue to fight indefinitely."

Miss Atkinson added that it had been difficult to cause such controversy in the first term of their university career. "I have never been political but the Government can't get away with this. It's going to affect who goes on to higher education in Britain forever."

She said that both her parents fully supported her actions, even if eventually it led to the end of her studies at Oxford.

The university has already offered extensive support for

students unable to afford the Government's new tuition fees, and recently set up a scheme to pay all or part of the fees of hard-up students. Although it has been unwilling to suspend students who cannot pay, it appears to be happy to use these powers against those who refuse to pay.

The two women have until Friday to hand over the £1,000. Andrew Graham, the master of Balliol, has told them that if they miss the deadline he will give their names to university authorities and they will be prohibited from entering even the Examination Schools. He has also warned them that if they have not paid by the end of next term the col-

lege could withhold their residency.

In October Balliol was unique in its decision to prevent both women from matriculating, or officially joining the university, because they had refused to pay their fees. Every other Oxford college allowed matriculation, regardless of whether fees had been paid, leaving disciplinary matters over fees to the university.

But yesterday Mr Graham said that, by accepting their places, they were legally obliged to pay the fees. "I do not wish to stop them making a protest. But we think people are obliged to pay these fees

and we will make sure students are aware of what the consequences are of not paying them."

The two women have become something of a cause célèbre around Oxford and have the full backing of Balliol Junior Common Room, which is threatening an "occupation of college" if further action is taken. Ricken Patel, the President of Balliol JCR, has also announced that he will quit Oxford if the two women are forced to leave. He said: "This is one of the most important decisions a country can undertake and there has not yet been an intelligent public debate about these fees. It's incredible."

The £1,000-a-year university tuition fees were introduced this year. The Government announced its intention to do so last summer, provoking a political row.

The Tories condemned the measure as one that would discourage thousands of young people from going to university. And Labour backbenchers were uneasy at what many, particularly the old guard, saw as a betrayal of the principle of free state education for all. But David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, defended the introduction of fees as the only means by which the nation could afford to maintain the higher education system.

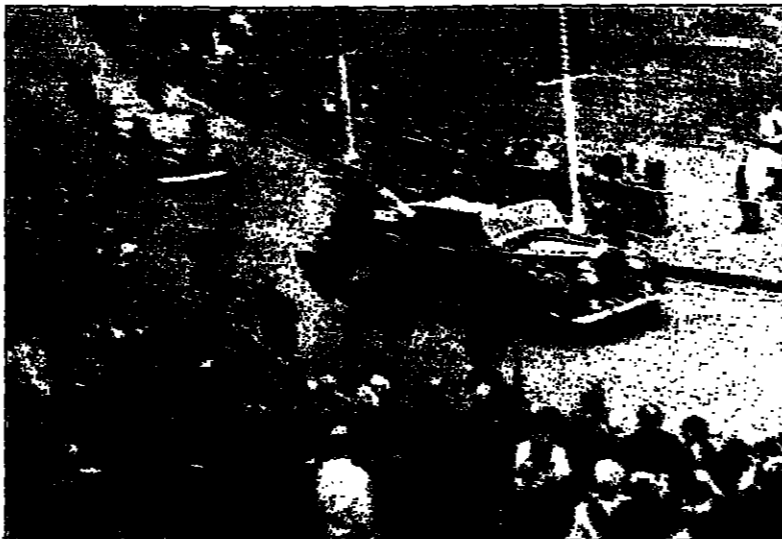
The fees were announced at the same time as the Government was planning to bring in a vast expansion of higher education with many more young people being given the chance to study for a degree.



Balliol: the college has set a Friday deadline



The horse rears up after touching the wheels of the Queen's carriage, below left, throwing the trooper to the ground, where he is tended by police officers



Trooper collides with Queen's carriage

A TROOPER from the Household Cavalry taking part in the royal procession to honour the four-day state visit of President Roman Herzog of Germany was thrown from his horse after colliding with the Queen's carriage in Windsor yesterday (Alan Hamilton and Michael Evans write).

The trooper from The Blues and Royals, wearing the traditional breastplate and plumed helmet, suffered a shoulder injury when the horse suddenly reared up as the procession was on its way to Windsor Castle. The drama began in Thames Street, Windsor,

when the horse in the second row of the procession in front of the carriage bearing the Queen and President Herzog became restless. The trooper struggled to restrain his mount but, as he tried to move away from the procession, the horse touched the wheels of the Queen's carriage and another carriage. Witnesses said that the Queen had looked "very startled".

Peter Stead, 22, said: "After the carriages had gone past, the horse reared up and the horse and rider fell backwards. The horse was on top of the rider." Last night a spokesman for the

Household Cavalry said that the trooper's injuries were not as serious as feared and that he had been released from hospital after treatment. The horse, Reavley, had suffered cuts and bruises.

Thames Valley Police said that the Queen and President Herzog had asked about the trooper's condition.

The cavalryman, who was not named, was part of the Sovereign's Escort, and the horse had been trained to handle the sound of military bands, traffic noise and other distractions while on ceremonial duties. The

Household Cavalry spokesman said that it was unusual for a horse to rear up during a procession: "No one will know what made the horse behave like that."

The escort of the Queen and President Herzog was provided by 120 members of The Blues and Royals and The Life Guards.

Yesterday afternoon President Herzog visited a German school at Petersham, Surrey, before returning to Windsor to attend a state banquet under the spectacular new hammerbeam roof of St George's Hall.

Giant Haystacks killed by cancer

THE wrestler Giant Haystacks - famous for his battles with Big Daddy - has died of cancer.

The fighter, whose real name was Martin Ruane, was at home with his family in Prestwich, Manchester, when he died on Monday after a two-year struggle against the disease.

His former promoter Max Crabtree said: "He was a big star and always played the bad guy but he loved his wife Rita and his three children."

The wrestler, 50, had undergone surgery and chemotherapy to remove a tumour in his abdomen at Christie Hospital in Manchester and his weight had fallen from his usual 49 stone to 24 stone.

In his prime, the wrestler attracted a television audience of up to 16 million. His breakfast alone would consist of a box of Westbix, 3lb of bacon, a dozen eggs and a loaf of bread.

Interviewed in April this year the star said: "I don't want to thrash the world anymore or beat the living daylights out of my ring rivals. My greatest joy these days is just waking up, seeing the



Martin Ruane, known in ring as Giant Haystacks

blue sky and hearing the birds sing. Cancer was my biggest opponent and the worst thing is you cannot see it. You never know where it is going to attack you from next. I was a big strong guy but I was still terrified of what was happening to me.

He added: "In my career I've broken most of my bones. I've been covered in bruises and had gashes requiring 500 stitches. But nothing prepared me for my fear of dying on the operating table powerless to fight back."

Two die as bus hits shoppers

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO teenage girls were killed and a two-year-old girl suffered a fractured skull yesterday when a bus ran out of control into a queue of shoppers.

Initial reports suggested that the brakes of the single-decker had failed as its driver pulled into the bus depot in central Sunderland. The bus, operated by Stagecoach, ploughed through railings into the queue. It carried on for a further 20 yards, dragging the two teenagers beneath it.

Eight paramedic teams and a doctor were at the scene within minutes. Firefighters used cutting equipment to free the girls but they were pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

The two-year-old was first taken to Sunderland Royal Infirmary but later transferred to a specialist unit at Newcastle General Hospital. Seven other people were detained at the Sunderland hospital with various injuries. One is said to have a serious arm injury.

Inspector Ken Short of Northumbria Police said they

were still looking for the toddler's parents. "Clearly a two-year-old would not be by themselves."

He added: "The emergency services coped very well. The fire service have done a tremendous job releasing the people from under this bus. We have spoken briefly to the driver and he has been released from the hospital." He was said to be unharmed but suffering "deep shock".

A witness, John Lamb, 68, from Hendon, Sunderland, was in the bus station when he heard the bus crash and turned to see casualties on the floor.

He said: "It just drove straight through the bus stop into a queue of people. The paramedics asked me to help a woman who was bleeding. I kept her neck still while they put a collar on her."

Terry Terivan, Stagecoach divisional traffic manager, said: "There is going to be an investigation but it is too early to say what happened. The driver has been with us for a number of years."

Let us pray — on the Internet

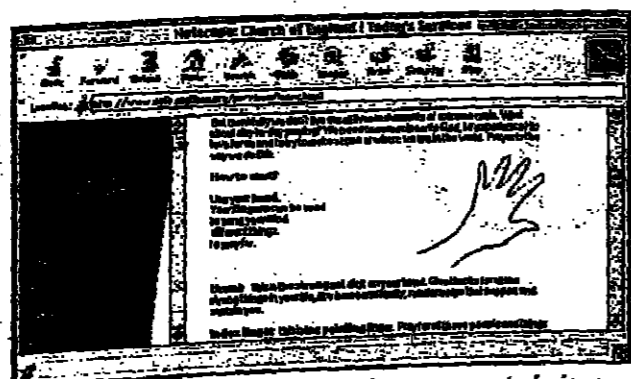
By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

KNEELING is no longer necessary when praying, the Church of England has announced on its new website, which also gives a simplified fingers-and-thumbs guide on how to pray.

"How to start? Use your hand. Your fingers can be used to bring your mind different things to pray for," the Church advises, illustrating its instructions with a graphic of a hand in case the message is not clear.

The Church's official site, launched yesterday, adds: "Kneeling is the traditional praying posture but you don't have to."

The content of the website is an indication of how secularised the Church feels the nation has become. It compares the discipline of praying to di-



Church of England's website guide to prayer technique

ating, or weeding the garden: "Little and often is best, but don't give up. Prayer can happen anywhere - walking, standing, sitting, whatever else feels comfortable."

The Church urges people to "be creative" in their praying. "Use music, a stone, a feather, a flower, or a candle to help you focus." But it warns: "If

you are little, or elderly, be careful with candles!"

God hears every prayer, the Church insists, and prayer is easier than is imagined. "Words can often get in the way. Say what is in your heart, what you feel," the Church says.

As to praying-by-fingers, it suggests that the thumb is the

"strongest digit" and signifies prayers for the strong things in life, such as home and family. The index finger is the pointing finger: "Pray for all those people in your life who guide and help you."

The middle finger is the "wildest finger", suggesting prayers for "the people who have power in the world."

The ring finger, meanwhile, is the "weakest finger" which can do little by itself. "Remember the poor, the weak, the hungry, the sick," the Church says, while adding that the little finger is "the smallest and the last finger on your hand. Pray for yourself."

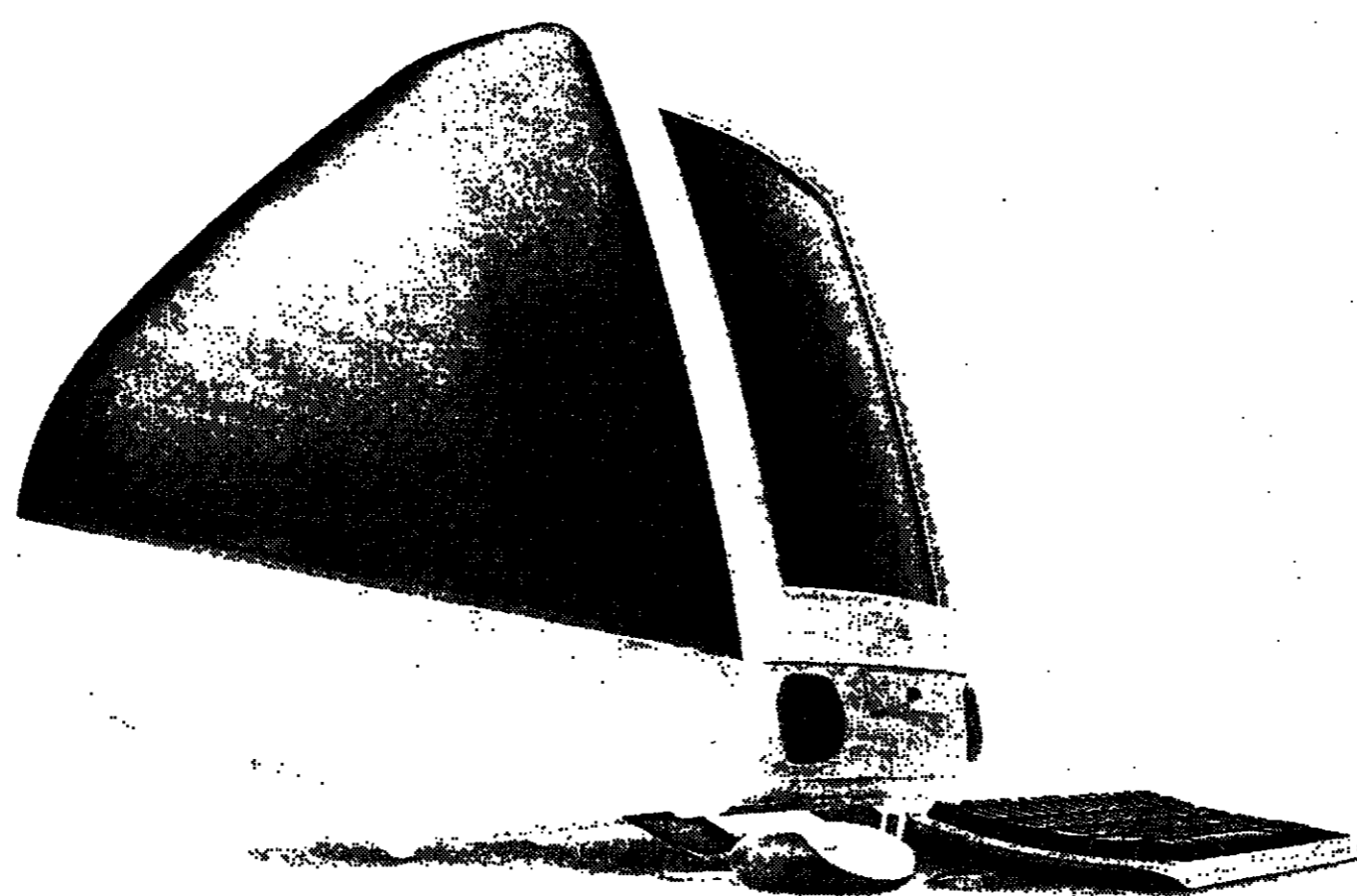
The website also gives daily prayers and readings and advice on how to join. "It is difficult to be a solitary Christian," it says. "Yet sometimes churches can seem either overwhelming or remote."

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Tatchell offer £18

By Roy Munn

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By Roy Munn

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Tatchell's 1860 offence earns £18.60 fine

By RICHARD DUCE

A MAGISTRATE yesterday fined the homosexual activist Peter Tatchell £18.60 in a reference to the date of the law used to convict him of disrupting the Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter sermon with a protest.

Tatchell could have been jailed for up to two months under the Ecclesiastical Courts Jurisdiction Act of 1860 but Michael Kelly, the magistrate, made it clear that times had moved on since the law was last used in 1966. Mr Kelly dismissed Tatchell's protest in Canterbury Cathedral against Dr George Carey's views on homosexual rights as "puerile conduct which will soon be forgotten although your cause may not be".

Mr Kelly, 49, said he was satisfied that Tatchell's protest had been "indecent" within the terms of Section 2 of the 1860 Act and he was bound by the finding in 1966 in which an anti-Vietnam War protester was jailed for two months.

He did not agree with the decision of those magistrates to pass a jail sentence and told Tatchell that some people would have applauded his actions. "But I suspect that the vast majority will regard your conduct as an insignificant and transient incident in the history of a great cathedral." During the two-day hearing in Canterbury, the court heard how Tatchell, along with six other members of the gay rights group, OutRage! had



Benn: compared Tatchell to Gandhi

Section 9, which enshrines the freedom to worship.

Mr. Kelly, who usually sits as the Woolwich and Greenwich stipendiary in London but tried the case to avoid any local bias, told Tatchell: "Section 9 gives the right to manifest religious belief and worship. I think your conduct infringing that right on one of the most important days of the Christian calendar."

He said that he accepted that Tatchell was a man of good character with a "clear commitment" over the past 29 years to his cause of establishing equal rights for the lesbian and gay community.

Barrier Tatchell, 46, had called on the testimony of the Labour MP and constitutional expert, Tony Benn, who told the court: "The difference between democracy and autocracy is that democracy recognises that cultural change may make existing laws obsolete."

Tatchell began to address the 2,000 congregation before being led away by a police superintendent. He was the only protester to be arrested.

Tatchell from Bermondsey, southeast London, had about 20 supporters in court but neither he nor they said anything as Mr Kelly announced first that he had decided on a guilty verdict and then, after mitigation from Mark Guthrie, for the defence, that there should be a fine of £18.60 with prosecution costs to pay of £320.

Mr Guthrie had argued that under the new Human Rights Act, Tatchell's right to freedom of speech was protected under Section 10. However, Mr Kelly ruled that the protest infringed



Tatchell outside Canterbury court yesterday. "I don't regard myself as being guilty of committing a crime," he said

Conscience is above the law, conscience is God-made and the law is man-made."

During his testimony, Mr Benn, who has known Tatchell for 17 years, likened the case to those of Mahatma Gan-

dhi and Nelson Mandela, who were both imprisoned because of their principles for offences that no longer exist.

After the hearing, Tatchell said: "I have been found guilty in a court of law but I don't re-

gard myself as being guilty of committing a crime. My prosecution was under an unjust and oppressive law."

Since he was charged, pressure has grown to have the 1860 Act repealed. The cam-

paign has the support of the Bishop of Edinburgh, the Right Reverend Richard Holloway, as well as people such as the playwright Harold Pinter and the author Sir Ludovic Kennedy.

Teachers face inquiry over party drugs claim

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

TWO teachers have been accused of gross professional misconduct after pupils allegedly smoked cannabis at parties at their home.

Brigid Bell and Richard Yule, both in their 20s, are expected to face an internal disciplinary hearing next week. If found guilty they could lose their jobs.

They were suspended three weeks ago from Oban High School, in Argyll and Bute, after colleagues raised concerns with the school's rector.

Police decided not to bring criminal charges. An inquiry by local education chiefs resulted in the disciplinary charges. It is understood to have been alleged that the teachers invited pupils to parties at their flat opposite the school, during which some of the pupils smoked cannabis.

In September three pupils were excluded after two of them allegedly smoked cannabis at the school. The school later issued a statement appealing to the community to help to fight drugs in Oban.

Carey 'satisfied' by court verdict

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said that he was "satisfied" by the conviction of Peter Tatchell.

He disclosed that he had made a statement in advance indicating to the court that he had "no interest in punitive treatment of Mr Tatchell". But he added that, by convicting him, the court had "recognised unequivocally that his behaviour cannot be condoned; nor can the considerable pain and distress caused by Mr Tatchell to many people who were trying to engage in their right to worship unmolested."

Dr Carey defended his record on the issue of homosexuality, rejecting Mr Tatchell's claims of prejudice. He said that he was "publicly and wholly committed to a continu-

ing dialogue with homosexuals — individually and in groups — both within and outside the Church."

The Church Society, an evangelical lobby group in the Church of England, described the fine as "a bit of a joke". The Rev David Phillips, the director, said: "It shows that what Peter Tatchell did was wrong, without being too heavy on him. What he did was wrong, but it is not the sort of thing to go to prison for."

But the Rev Stephen Trotter, a traditionalist member of the General Synod, called for "more realistic" fines. He said: "Acts of worship should enjoy respect and protection from disturbance and not be used to further people's public or private campaigns."

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Help our chosen charities

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Each year *The Times* nominates charities for its Christmas Appeal, commending them to readers as worthy recipients of their generosity. This year a research trust dedicated solely to finding a cure for Alzheimer's, a project to help the survival of the cheetah and a bridge-building appeal in Honduras are our chosen charities.

The Alzheimer's Research Trust was launched by Dr Mary Archer in 1993 to sponsor research into prevention and treatment, and to disseminate new findings. Money raised will fund five years' research into risk factors.

The Serengeti Cheetah Project is the work of the Zoological Society of London. The only current long-term study of wild cheetahs, it seeks to halt their decline.

The Oxfam Bridge Appeal is a real way to help Honduras to recover from devastation. Building a bridge is a long-term aid to self-sufficiency that could be in place by the new year.

Leading article, page 21

Trust hopes to uncover causes of Alzheimer's

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALZHEIMER'S disease is the most common form of dementia in the world. It affects one in ten of the population over 65. A quarter of those who reach 85 will develop symptoms.

Because it is a degenerative illness of the nervous system there is little chance of finding a cure for sufferers. Destroyed brain cells cannot be replaced so the best hope is to reduce the number of future victims by identifying risk factors that can lead to the disease and develop preventive treatments. Alzheimer's appears to attack indiscriminately, with victims including Ronald Reagan and Iris Murdoch. Every reader could be regarded as potentially in danger — until we know more about causes. The Alzheimer's Research Trust is trying to raise money to fund a five-year research group to look for the risk factors. It will cost £500,000 to pay for the two research fellowships, a technician and a PhD student to staff the unit. *The Times* aims to raise a substantial amount towards that total.

Rebecca Wood, the trust's manager, says: "In five years we hope to be able to make a substantial amount of progress. We have got to start this work now.

"The older we get the more likely we are to develop the disease and with an ageing population it is going to become more and more common."

The trust is a national charity, founded only five years ago as the public began to appreciate that Alzheimer's was a real disease, not something families should regard with shame. Mrs Wood says: "There used to be a stigma attached to dementia but now they are far less embarrassed about it."

A research group has already been set up to develop experimental models for the brain pathology of the disease. Scientists from ten centres competed for the £500,000 grant from the charity, which chose a team in Cambridge. Its research will also look into Lewy Body dementia, a similar kind of illness, and has implications for Parkinson's disease too. The second research group, to be set up with the help of *Times* readers, will also be chosen from applicants replying to advertisements in the scientific press.



The cheetah's habitat is further eroded each year. There are now fewer than 10,000 left

Fight to save the cheetah

By DANIEL MCGRORY

LOOKS can deceive in nature's pitiless pecking order. Crouched on its muscular haunches, ready to run down its prey with lightning speed, the cheetah appears to be a match for anything.

Yet the beautiful animals are seen in ever-decreasing numbers. The cheetah is in danger of disappearing from the wild. Once huge numbers roamed across much of Africa and Asia but now there are fewer than 10,000 left, confined to a corner of southeast Africa.

On the plains of the Serengeti in Tanzania, Dr Sarah Durant is working on the only long-term study of cheetahs in the wild, trying to find ways to reverse their decline. Cheetahs, it seems, are too soft to survive on their own. Often one will make a kill only to have a lion or hyena chase it away and help itself to the food. Only one of every 20 cheetah cubs lives to independence at 18 months. The rest are eaten by other carnivores.

There are other enemies, of course, principally and inevitably mankind. Although the days of big-game hunting are over, man still threatens the cheetah. Its habitat is further whittled away each year, squeezing the cheetah into open savannah where it cannot compete with its fiercer neighbours.

Hungry cheetahs sometimes kill goats and are then shot or poisoned by the tribesmen who own them. The Serengeti is one of the largest parks in Africa but it holds no more than 400 cheetahs. For the past 15 years this project has monitored all the Serengeti cheetahs, fixing some with tracking devices and recognising the rest by their spot patterns, which are unique to each creature.

Since 1991 Dr Durant, who was educated at Cambridge, has lived in the Serengeti with the cheetahs. She now wants to extend her study to the woodlands, where she hopes the cheetahs may find respite from other carnivores.

This is a way you can ensure this beautiful but vulnerable animal will survive into the millennium and beyond.

Bridges rebuild hope and economy

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN RIO HONDU

WHEN Hurricane Mitch tore through Central America, it devastated the countryside. Just over a month later many of the estimated 600,000 people made homeless in Honduras remain virtually stranded in communities cut off by floodwaters that washed out roads and bridges.

International aid has provided clothing, food and medical aid. But there has been no quick solution for the bridges. Ninety-eight road bridges were washed away by the torrents of mud and water.

"Some aid is very selective and short term but bridges are long term," Jonathan Daxos, director of sales for Mabey and Johnson, the Reading bridge-building firm, said.

"If the countryside cannot support itself, people migrate to cities and that only creates more urban slums. Bridges can help the people in the countryside to be self-sufficient and get their goods to market."

At Rio Hondo, between the capital of Honduras and the country's main agricultural area, floods washed away almost half a bridge over the River Amaratca and 130ft of approach road. Mabey and Johnson says that Rio Hondo could have a bridge in the new year if readers of *The Times* raise the money for a crossing built by its Compact Rapid Reaction Bridge System, which is modelled on the Bailey bridge.

Mabey and Johnson has agreed to foot all site preparation and construction costs if readers raise the cost price. The bridges cost from about £20,000 for a 15-metre span.

"We are very excited by this project," Mr Daxos said. "It is British bridging at its best, supported by the British public. It will make a wonderful gift for Honduras in its time of need."

Not wishing to stand on ceremony that name is Toshiba. We've just swept the board at the prestigious USA computer magazine awards at COMDEX. We've won the 'PC Magazine' 1998 Technical Excellence Award for the Tecra 8000 series, which was deemed by the judges to have "effectively redefined high-end notebook computing."

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Car

Agony drivers... residents who... short cut...

Doctors ban on 'unbabywal'

DOCTORS are calling on the safe use of babywalkers because they are responsible for thousands of injuries each year.

A research published in the specialist journal *Paediatrics* shows that children placed in babywalkers have an 80 per cent greater risk of falling and a 100 per cent greater risk of injury to the head and neck.

The study, carried out by researchers at the University of Birmingham, involved 100 children aged between 12 months and 2 years.

The researchers found that half of the children who used babywalkers had fallen at least once. In some cases, the falls were severe enough to require hospital treatment.

The researchers also found that children who used babywalkers were more likely to be injured in the head and neck area.

The researchers concluded that babywalkers are a significant risk to children's safety and should be banned.

Italians lo

BY FRANKIE GRUBB LOCAL CORRESPONDENT

ITALY set up a celebration in London yesterday to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Benito Mussolini.

The ceremony, held at the Royal Albert Hall, was attended by several hundred people, including members of the Italian government and the British royal family.

The event was a controversial one, given Mussolini's role in the Second World War. However, it was seen as a way of celebrating Italy's cultural and historical heritage.

Car wars on the luxury rat-run

Angry drivers took revenge on residents who tried to disrupt their short cut, reports Daniel McGrory

A LITTLE local protest in a genteel seaside neighbourhood led to police and private security guards having to protect wealthy residents from guerrilla attacks by gangs wearing ski masks yesterday.

Householders had been so fed up with their road being used as a "rat run" by rush-hour drivers that they used their Mercedes, BMWs and other luxury cars to form a most expensive chicane in Sussex. In revenge, irritated motorists had staged an attack early yesterday morning, smashing into cars, releasing their handbrakes and letting them roll down the immaculately kept boulevard, causing thousands of pounds damage.

The residents of Woodland Drive in Hove in East Sussex retaliated by hiring uniformed private security teams to pat-

rol the 160 homes last night. Police called in to keep the rival sides apart said: "This is not so much a neighbourhood watch anymore as a turf war. We are not used to this sort of thing in such a pleasant corner of Hove."

Among the activists of Woodland Drive is John Dimick, an international marketing consultant, who said: "All want to do is protect a lifestyle we have worked hard for. The fact that we have nice homes and nice cars means we're being prejudiced against, as the council won't do anything to help us."

Passing motorists gave their verdict on his gallant stand with a variety of obscene gestures that Mr Dimick was too polite to respond to. He insists that the hired muscle patrolling the drive were under or-



A suitable case for traffic calming: above, the road residents felt driven to defend. Below, examples of the damage which have angered Terry Saunders, left, and John Dimick, who said: "All we want to do is protect a lifestyle. There have been 31 accidents in two years"



other road users complain we have no other option but to act accordingly.

Mr Dimmick said: "Last night was our third protest. We parked our cars in a legal manner in an 'S' shape down the road. It causes a slowing down of the traffic which is something we have been trying to get for 20 years. The attack on the cars was an organised

raid. They knew all the cars belonging to committee members and picked on them."

Another resident, Terry Saunders, 40, who runs his own engineering business, was awoken by the noise of the attackers. He had three of his luxury cars parked on the road. Mr Saunders, who has lived in the road for three years, is now assessing the

damage on his £31,000 four-wheel vehicle. He said: "I woke up to find my Grand Cherokee being attacked. It looked like it had been done over with a hammer or crowbar. The side window was smashed. But it makes us even more determined to fight on. It is only a car which has been damaged, but one day it could be a child's life."

A spokeswoman for Brighton and Hove Council said:

"Woodland Drive had been third in line for traffic calming measures but a Conservative councillor moved that the scheme should not be proceeded with so the council voted not to proceed with the scheme. We cannot condone any action that may pose a safety risk and the residents have obviously enraged other road users."

French make light work of Christmas cheer

By Robin Young

BLUE-OVERALLED workmen from the French port of Boulogne-sur-Mer crossed the Channel yesterday to decorate Folkestone for Christmas. Their efforts were much appreciated by shoppers who were disappointed by the town's "feeble", "Scrooge-like" display last year.

The four lorry loads of French decorations, erected by 16 workers under the direction of Boulogne's parks manager, Louis Djalaï, consisted of large birch branches painted white, tied with golden bows and draped with tinsel. They were tied to Folkestone's old town hall and to lampposts along Sandgate Road and Guildhall Street.

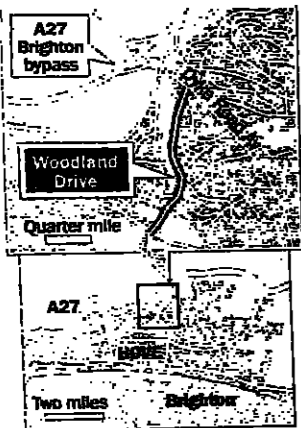
The effect, Folkestonians allowed, was pleasing. "But Folkestone lights used to be really super years ago," said one resident, Helen Southgate. "People came from all over Kent to see them, and they came in specially from France as well."

Folkestone's town centre manager, Philippe Esclasse, said: "Folkestone and Boulogne are twinned and we are planning a lot more co-operation. We hope to stage an inter-town Olympics and exchanges between our tourist offices, the police force and the local schools."

M Djalaï said that the decorations had cost about £7,000. "The reason that we are better able to provide such decorations is that we still have municipal services in France," he said. "Here the services are contracted out to private companies and not subsidised by tax- or ratepayers. That makes life much more difficult."

Folkestone's contribution to its decorations this year was about 2,000 new bulbs. "The old sets were completely clapped-out," said one of the council workmen who were stringing the lights across the main shopping streets.

Boulogne, which last year won an award for the best decorations in Northern France, has spent about £70,000 this year on giant Christmas trees, snowmen, Santas, fairy lights and snowflakes.



control the 160 homes last night. Police called in to keep the rival sides apart said: "This is not so much a neighbourhood watch anymore as a turf war. We are not used to this sort of thing in such a pleasant corner of Hove."

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Doctors want ban on 'unsafe' babywalkers

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

DOCTORS are calling for a ban on the sale and use of babywalkers because they are responsible for thousands of injuries each year.

Research published today in the specialist journal *Injury Prevention* shows that up to half the children placed in a babywalker have an accident and that parents continue to use the device even though they know that it is dangerous.

One study among 1,600 parents from 36 practices in Nottingham with children aged between three months and a year showed that half used babywalkers but did not realise that this increased the risk of head injuries, fractures, bruises and burns.

Babywalkers support the infant's weight, enabling the child to move around before the normal developmental stage of walking. That increased mobility exposes the child to hazards such as stairways, fires and heaters.

The Nottingham study showed most accidents occur

because the child falls down stairs or steps but one family in five using them did not have a stairgate. A gate was installed in only a third of accidents and fewer than half the families without a gate acquired one after a child was injured by a fall.

"Families do not perceive walkers as dangerous," the report by Nottingham University Medical School says. "Two thirds of children who suffered a walker-related injury continued to be placed in walkers after their injury."

Parents gave reasons for continuing to put their child in a babywalker such as keeping the baby quiet and happy, encouraging mobility, and providing exercise. Some even said that it kept the child safe.

"There have been repeated calls for a ban on babywalker manufacture and sale and as health professionals we should support such campaigns," Denise Kendrick, one of the authors of the report, said.

HRT may slow growth of breast cancer tumours

By Our Medical Correspondent

HORMONE replacement therapy may curb the growth of breast cancer tumours, even though it may slightly increase the risk of developing the disease.

The cancerous growths in women on HRT were significantly smaller and of a less dangerous kind than those in women not given the treatment, research published today in the *Journal of Clinical Pathology* shows.

The researchers from the Imperial College School of Medicine at Charing Cross Hospital, London, investigated cases of 60 women who developed breast cancer. They found that the tumours of the 31 on HRT were, on average, 8mm smaller than those in the women not being given it.

Only 29 per cent of the women on HRT had tumours containing a chemical that is associated with a more dangerous grade of cancer, compared with 45 per cent of those not taking it. The disease had spread to the lymph nodes in

26 per cent of those on HRT but 41 per cent of the others.

The researchers say that the higher incidence of smaller tumours among women on HRT may be due to the fact that they tend to be subject to more rigorous screening, leading to early detection of the disease.

However, as most women over 50 in Britain now undergo regular screening, the authors say that the possibility of a direct effect of the therapy should be investigated.

It is not known how many of the women on HRT would have grown tumours if they had not been on the therapy and further tests are needed to determine the probability of their developing breast cancer.

The authors say: "However, as most recent studies indicate that HRT is not associated with a significantly increased risk of developing breast carcinoma, the findings in our investigation tend to suggest that hormone supplementation may provide a beneficial modifying effect."

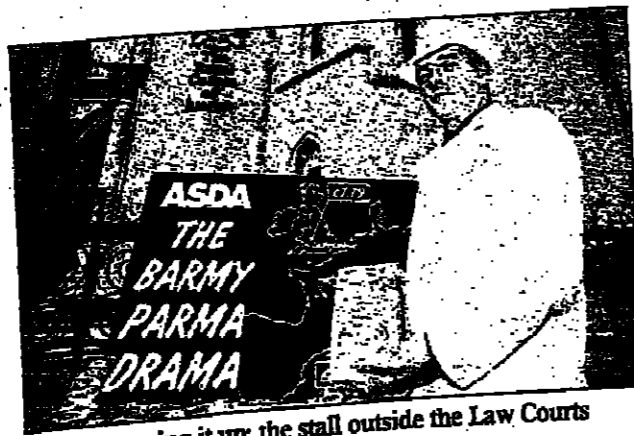
Italians lose a slice of the action

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

ASDA set up a celebratory ham stall outside the Law Courts in London yesterday after winning its legal battle over the selling of Parma ham.

Italian producers had argued that, although the supermarket chain's Parma ham is genuinely from Parma, it should not be called Parma ham because it is sliced and packaged in Britain.

But the Court of Appeal ruled that while EC regulations gave Parma a "protected designation of origin", that did not include the strict Italian rules on slicing and packaging. ASDA, which boasts that its ham is up to 61 per cent cheaper than competitors, celebrated its win by set-



Hamming it up: the stall outside the Law Courts

ting up a Parma ham stall on the pavement with a placard describing the case as "The Barmy Parma Drama".

ASDA said that it was ridiculous to suggest that its ham, imported directly from the Parma region, was somehow

inferior because of where it had been packed. "Their argument that slicing and packing this ham in the UK makes it in some way less genuine took a real hammering in court," Justin King, the company's deputy trading director, said.

According to Italian law, the ham must be fully prepared for sale in the Parma region of the Po Valley under the control of the Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma.

But Lords Justices Kennedy, Aldous and Potter dismissed an appeal striking a High Court decision against ASDA Stores and its slicers and packers, Hygrade Foods Ltd, of Corsham, Wiltshire. The judges said that the ham's EU protection merely set a framework for fair competition and did not provide protection for processes such as the slicing of ham.

The Parma hills are ideal for curing hams because of their low humidity. Detailed laws regulate the type of pigs that can be used, their rearing conditions and diet.

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Out of tune with Euro harmony

GERMANY and France yesterday stayed on collision course with Britain as they pledged "rapid progress" in harmonising taxes and pushing forward more quickly towards a politically integrated Europe.

"The Franco-German relationship is more important than ever as a motor for the construction of Europe," Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor said, capping two days of talks with Jacques Chirac, the French President, and Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister. "With the help of very close co-ordination we are ready to take on this responsibility."

Yet the two countries could not paper over the divisions on fundamental problems such as how to achieve a budget rebate for Germany, how to reform European finances as a whole and, most controversially, how to overhaul the common agricultural policy.

The main area of agreement yesterday was in territory charted out since September's German general election by Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, and Dominique Strauss Kahn, his French counterpart: the creation of a common economic re-

France and Germany's promise yesterday to accelerate moves toward European unity puts them on a collision course with Britain, reports Roger Boyes from Potsdam

game to coincide with the introduction of the euro.

"We will move, at this critical time, towards a stronger co-ordination of economic policy — in particular among the 11 euroland states — press for rapid tax harmonisation and the creation of a real economic social model," a joint communiqué said.

"We deplore the unsatisfactory state of European discussion on social affairs... we will urge initiatives to encourage stronger harmonisation of the European social model."

M Jospin made clear that this was above all a Franco-German responsibility: "A real social agreement in Europe, progress on tax harmonisation, movement towards controls on international capital markets — all this is part of the new dynamic of the relationship."

Although Herr Lafontaine left the Potsdam summit early for a European Finance Ministers' meeting, the summit docu-

ments carry his imprint. The communiqué demanded stronger controls on international capital markets and a concerted move to boost the credibility of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

"To this end there should be an international discussion aimed at making the Interim Committee (of the IMF) into a real Council of Finance Ministers," it said.

Herr Schröder had promised that the broad contours of Agenda 2000, the financing of the European Union and agriculture reform would be ready for a package-deal settlement by next March. The French did not seem so confident. The German leaders promised the French that he would not pile on more pressure on the budget rebate question. "We hope, nonetheless, for the support of the French."

M Chirac added: "Yes, there is a problem and we are doing our best so that Germany can

at least get part of what it wants. But we have to remember: everybody has a problem and they should all be laid on the table."

The French do not want to deal separately on the rebate. Concessions to Germany have to translate into concessions for the French, and above all for their farmers. The President's phrase for this was "global compromise".

Germany's six-month presidency of the European Union, beginning in January, may be setting off with over-optimistic expectations. Above all, Herr Schröder wants speedy, across-the-board results to deflect attention from slow progress on domestic reforms.

In contrast, France is ready to slow the pace until the balance of advance shifts in its direction. The German Government did not budge from its view that direct farm subsidies should be co-financed by national authorities (a move that would substantially reduce Germany's contribution to the European budget). The French say this would kill the common agricultural policy. That is the long-term hope of the modernisers in the German Government though not, understandably, its Agricultural Minister.

Another potent area of disagreement yesterday was Germany's policies on civil nuclear energy and military nuclear power. A Franco-German working committee is to be set up to minimise the damage to France's nuclear programme of Germany withdrawing from atomic energy.

"France does not have the right to judge a political or economic decision made by Germany," said President Chirac, who nonetheless made plain that he did not like it. Germany also told France that it would continue to lobby for a "no first use" nuclear strategy. President Chirac stressed that this had to be dealt with on a Nato level, presumably because he is sure that combined American, British and French opposition would squash the German idea.

pean institutional reform. Herr Schröder called for fast negotiations with central Europe but did not — unlike Helmut Kohl, his predecessor — set a date for entry.

M Jospin shifted responsibility for any delayed enlargement onto the central Europeans. "I have told the Czechs we are waiting for you. They have to tell us when they are ready to bear the shock of European Union membership."

Diplomats say there has been some narrowing of the French and German positions on budget contributions though there was no breakthrough in Potsdam. The French President agreed to keep European Union spending growth in line with inflation until 2006.

In turn, Herr Schröder is no longer demanding a "correction mechanism" to improve Germany's budgetary position. But the leaders are divided over whether to hand back to national Governments the responsibility for paying farmers direct subsidies.

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| EUROPE AND TAXES: THE FACTS, THE FUTURE | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| VAT | Standard rate: 17.5 per cent. Lower rate: 5 per cent (domestic fuel and power). Zero rated: children's clothing, books, newspapers and magazines, food (excluding hot takeaway and restaurant food), passenger travel, water and sewerage services, drugs and medicines on prescription, supplies to charities, construction of new dwellings, ships and aircraft above a certain size, vehicles and other supplies to people with disabilities. | The EU is about to renew existing VAT regimes unchanged. This fixes minimum standard rate of 15 per cent, with many exemptions, including newspapers, food and children's clothes in Britain. Highest rates currently applied in some other states are 25 per cent. There are no plans for new rates. Some want to bring regimes closer into line for the sake of smoothing the path of monetary union. | Government would veto any move to force Britain to change VAT rates. The 17.5 per cent headline rate is a major asset for Westminster. Only the Government can change the status of goods which are currently zero-rated in Britain, such as children's clothes, food and newspapers, or raise the 5 per cent lower rate on domestic fuel. Gordon Brown has ruled out changes to either for the lifetime of this Parliament. | Britain will retain its exemptions but pressure will grow for more harmonised rates within the next five years. As with all EU tax changes, this will require unanimity and is therefore subject to potential veto. |
| CORPORATE TAX | Standard rate: 31 per cent (30 per cent from April 1999). Small companies rate: 24 per cent (20 per cent from April 1999) | The EU is working on a voluntary code of conduct, aimed at ironing out distortions caused by unfair taxation practices such as special regimes for foreign investors. Working group, chaired by David Primarolo, Treasury Financial Secretary, has drawn up preliminary list of 85 schemes for examination and possible abolition in a year's time. | They are ours to set. They are direct tax measures which are not the business of Brussels. The Government would resist, if necessary, any pressure that begins to build up. | Discussion of minimum rates is likely to run into stiff opposition from Nordic states, Ireland and others. In addition, Mr Primarolo, Treasury Financial Secretary, says that any pressure that begins to build up. |
| INCOME TAX | 23 per cent for taxable earnings £A,301 to £27,100 40 per cent for taxable earnings above £27,100 | Talk of harmonising income tax is officially regarded as taboo, even to Germans and French. However, enthusiasts in some continental Governments and the European Commission say some degree of co-ordination in income tax regimes may reach the agenda once monetary union has been operating for some time. | The same response as above. But the Treasury points out that even the EU Tax Commission says there is no pressing need in this area. | This is a long-term item, but deeper economic integration with monetary union may increase pressure within a few years for bringing national income tax practices more closely into line. |
| TAX HAVENS | Crown Dependencies operate their own fiscal regimes: Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man. British Overseas Territories operate their own fiscal regimes, some of these are known for attracting business as tax havens, including Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Gibraltar. | The EU, including Britain, is keen to abolish tax havens, which cost national exchequers billions of pounds a year. German and Belgian professionals are said to bank much of their savings in Luxembourg. The EU's weapon is a proposed 20 per cent levy on income from investments paid into accounts held by non-residents. | Gordon Brown is unhappy with the proposals for the "withholding tax". He would veto the proposals as they stand. But he sees ground for negotiation, using the issue to clamp down on banking secrecy and for a greater exchange of information. | The EU will agree on a watered-down version of this proposed directive by the end of the German presidency in June. |
| CARS, CIGARETTES, DRINKS | Pint of lager £1.83. Excise duty: 26.0p, VAT 27.3p. Total tax £3.29. Wine (75cl) £3.05. Excise duty £108.5p, VAT 45.4p. Total £153.9p. Whisky (70cl) £11.49. Excise duty 547.7p, VAT 171.1p. Total 718.8p. 20 cigarettes (from 12/1/99) £3.54. Excise duty 230.5p, VAT 54.2p. Total 284.8p. Car tax: £150 | Cars are subject to VAT, set at national rates above. Cigarettes and alcohol are subject to nationally set excise tax. There are no plans to harmonise these although it is recognised that widely varying practices cause distortions, such as Britons' habit of buying alcohol and tobacco in foreign Channel ports. | Britain's excise duty rates are higher than the EU minimum. Thanks to the fuel excise, they will continue to fringe ahead on petrol and diesel. It is a national decision about how much tax we want to raise and how we want to raise it. The Government would oppose Brussels's attempts to limit the room for manoeuvre. | No action in the foreseeable future but pressure may build to prevent the more east-European newspapers from changing their views, especially as 11 of our European partners launch the single currency in 30 days' time. |



All together now: Lionel Jospin, left, Jacques Chirac, centre, and Gerhard Schröder in Potsdam yesterday

Leading article, page 21

Keep taking the tabloids, but always add a pinch of salt

By MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

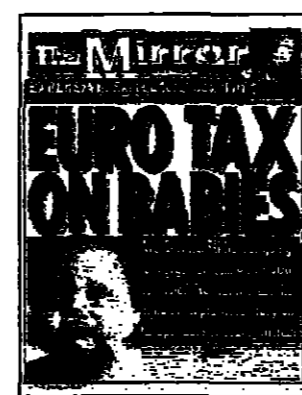
OSKAR LAFONTAINE, the German Finance Minister, did not say "We have ways of making you obey our tax laws" yesterday, but the perceived aim of removing Britain's powers to set its own taxes will make certain newspaper editors see it in that light. As Kenneth Clarke, the former Tory Chancellor, pointed out yesterday a renewed spirit of anti-European feeling is at large among some British newspapers.

There is no doubt that Herr Lafontaine's remarks yesterday will exacerbate these feelings.

Not that it has not begun already. Last week *The Sun* newspaper carried a front-page story attacking Herr Lafontaine. "Is this the most dangerous man in Europe?" the headline said — in English and German versions.

The newspaper went on to ask whether he was the "biggest threat to the British way of life that we have seen since 1945".

From its point of view, the newspaper had been spot on. It had said that Herr Lafontaine's arrival on the political



How *The Mirror* and *The Sun* saw it: different slants on the threat to Britain from European integration

scene — he was swept into power in September when Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrats ousted Helmut Kohl — would mean Britain would lose its right to set its own taxes.

And it is not just the tabloid newspapers which are stepping up their campaign against further European integration.

Last week *The Sunday Telegraph* published a report headlined "Biggest ever report rejects joining euro", the findings of a study of British attitudes to Europe, on its front page. It disclosed that public

support for the single currency — and even membership of the European Union — had fallen steeply.

The figures were superficially convincing. The paper said that the proportion of people supporting the EU had fallen from 77 per cent to 55 per cent in six years. The report also said that 28 per cent of people favoured complete withdrawal.

But this was grossly misleading and out of date. The British Social Attitudes report is a big survey, covering the whole of Europe this year. But the section covering British atti-

tudes to Europe was based on just 1,355 interviews.

The Mirror, *The Sun*'s chief competitor, satirised the mood of euro-sceptic newspapers yesterday with the front-page headline "Euro Tax on Babies".

The story asked: "Are German EU bosses going to charge our families £1,000 per child?" and then said "No, but it's just the kind of stupid scare story on Europe that's sweeping Britain."

The spoof continued: "The Wehrmacht is at the gates of London and the Union flag is being hauled down at Westminster", as it ridiculed alarmist views in tabloid newspapers. But this satire is unlikely to prevent the more east-European newspapers from changing their views, especially as 11 of our European partners launch the single currency in 30 days' time.

Herr Lafontaine looks set to become the Eurobogeyman-in-chief for certain editors, a role once performed by Jacques Delors, the former President of the European Commission, who was attacked by *The Sun* over his call for European expansion with the headline: "Up yours, Delors".

LORD MAYOR ATTACKS CROSS-BORDER SAVINGS TAX

THE European Commission's plans for a harmonised cross-border savings tax were attacked as "highly damaging" in the House of Lords last night (James Landale writes).

Lord Levene of Portsoken, the Lord Mayor of London and chairman of Bankers Trust International, said the so-called "withholding tax" would drive investment away from Europe.

The proposed minimum 20 per cent tax on interest payments across borders is aimed at preventing tax avoidance by investors who keep their capital abroad in countries with lower tax rates.

In the first speech made in the Upper House by a Lord Mayor since 1973, Lord Levene said the City welcomed the single market and insisted its completion was vital to the prosperity of the European Union.

But he added: "The rules for the single market must be drawn up so that Europe's financial business generally is not driven offshore and outside Europe

altogether. The Commission's plans for a withholding tax to apply across the European Union to savings income and in particular to the huge euro bond market — concentrated in London — certainly, but an asset to the whole continent — will be highly damaging to Europe's standing in world financial markets."

"Elimination of harmful tax competition is fine. But this becomes self-defeating if the effect is to send business to other countries. And who is the winner then?"

He added: "The Government has rightly taken a firm position against these plans."

"But I do urge the Commissioner and the EU presidency — both Austria now and Germany next year — to work through the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in seeking worldwide agreement on such changes first, instead of seeking to bring them into Europe alone."

"That is the only way to avoid the

damage across Europe they would otherwise bring."

Lord Levene's speech was taken over by Dominic Grieve, who vowed a warning against any taxes which would damage the City of London.

"The City has given the UK a huge competitive advantage throughout history," he said. "But today all the nations of Europe look to benefit from the competitive advantages that a number of countries have achieved in financial services in London is the clearest evidence of this."

He also warned Britain to be prepared for the single currency. "The single currency will not rob London of its importance in the European Union overnight," he said.

"On the contrary, the City's deep, liquid markets will be essential for the euro's birth and effective operation next year and in the future, irrespective of whether the United Kingdom joins or not."

~~... of the City~~
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Prescott gives £350m to pit communities

Ministers hope funding will offer a new chance to regions blighted by closures, reports Paul Wilkinson

HELP for struggling communities in former English coal-mining areas was offered by the Government yesterday with a £350 million aid package over the next three years. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the money was "a co-ordinated government response to combat the deprivation now faced by communities who once gave dedicated service to this country's coal industry".

limited success and much of the money will be used to improve infrastructure and provide incentives for potential employers. The proposals are based on recommendations published last summer by the Coalfields Task Force set up by Mr Prescott. Speaking to delegates from the Coalfields Campaign at their conference in Peterlee, Co Durham, Mr Prescott even suggested that the rail companies might consider retraining former miners to fill the posts of engine drivers, which he said last week were needed to keep the network running. "Our rail companies are short



Prescott: wants former miners to be retrained

of about 1,000 drivers. Well, they are in the coalfield areas, perhaps we can begin to get them from the coalfields working and driving trains and getting a better performance." He later said he had already

seen how former miners in the Midlands had retrained successfully to work in the new Toyota car factory. Men in the North East had learnt new technology skills.

The aid package includes the establishment of an independent Coalfields Regeneration Trust to provide support, including advice and money for community projects to improve quality of life. The trust will receive £45 million over the three years, including part of a £10 million surplus from the miners' pension fund run by the former state-owned operator, British Coal. The pension money will be shared with communities in Scotland and Wales.

Mr Prescott drew some criticism from representatives of Scottish and Welsh areas who said that they had been expecting a deal that also covered them. But Mr Prescott replied that he was speaking as Minister for the English regions. "We have devolution now. Scotland and Wales already make their own decisions in matters like education and transport." He expected the Scottish and Welsh Offices to come forward with their own proposals soon.

He also announced the creation of an independent Coalfield Enterprise Fund to encourage small firms into the coalfields. It will involve both the public and private sectors. The Government will put in



Miners in Northumberland ending a shift in the 1950s. Today there are few jobs to take the place of the collieries

£5 million a year and he hoped matching funds from the private sector and the European Investment Bank could create up to £50 million to help new businesses. A further £196 million of funds from the government-controlled regeneration agency, English Partnerships, will be "ring-fenced" for use in the coalfields. English Partner-

ships is already involved in a long-term project to reclaim and rejuvenate former mining sites. In 1996 it began a ten-year programme intended to create 46,500 new jobs, build 5,000 new homes and bring in £750 million worth of private capital investment.

Further funds in the new package will include £28 million from the Government's

housing investment programme for new homes in the coalfields and £70 million from the Single Regeneration Bid budget.

Mr Prescott said: "It is not just about money, it is about working together in partnership for the good of the communities. We are seeking to repair the damage done by sudden pit closures. This is never

easy, but I believe this is an excellent start."

Joan Dixon, campaigns officer for the Coalfields Communities Campaign, welcomed the aid. She said: "It is a ray of light for the communities. It is hoped we can create a quality of life that will make the coalfields the sort of place where companies will be happy to relocate or set up."

DANGER AND DISEASE: THE HIGH PRICE OF COAL

THE price of coal in human terms has greatly declined since the prewar days of underground death traps run by private owners. No one believes that the next century will see a repeat of the disaster at Gresford, North Wales, in 1934, when 265 men were killed, or of the tragedy at Aberfan in South Wales when 144 children and adults died. The proud boast of Britain's nationalised coal industry was to have created the safest mining in the world and fears that subsequent privatisation and deregulation of the rump of deep mines left behind by the clo-

sure programmes of the past decade have failed to materialise. But the deaths and the debilitating pneumoconiosis suffered by miners are not matters of the past. During 1996-97 the Health and Safety Executive reported six deaths and 229 major injuries in mining and quarrying for fossil fuels. The provisional figures for the year up to March 31 show 10 deaths and 255 major injuries. In an industry cut to fewer than 10,000 men, analysts do not regard the present record as one to encourage complacency.

Lung cancer risk twice as high for women

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN are twice as likely as men to develop the most dangerous form of lung cancer, according to the largest British study of patients with the disease.

The study found that the small cell lung cancer was usually so advanced in women before its diagnosis that in 70 per cent of cases it was impossible to operate — the most effective form of treatment. In contrast, nearly half of male patients could be considered for an operation.

The study, co-ordinated by the Royal College of Physicians' research unit, used data from 46 hospitals and will allow checks on lung cancer survival rates across the country. The results, to be presented to the winter meeting of the British Thoracic Society today, will be used to urge the Government to introduce measures in its White Paper on tobacco to cut the number of teenage girls who take up smoking.

Mike Pearson, chairman of the society's public education committee, said the fact that women had less resistance to the most dangerous form of lung cancer could be due to changing patterns of smoking behaviour. "Many women took up the habit a decade after men, who smoked heavily during World War Two," he said. "Women may also smoke in a different way to men, for example taking shorter, sharper inhalations, which could have an effect on the kind and severity of cancer that they develop."

"Worryingly, smoking in teenage girls is on the increase and it is vitally important that young women know the risks they are running by smoking. We must prevent them becoming the cancer victims of the future."

Chickenpox vaccine 'should be the norm'

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHICKENPOX immunisations save lives, prevent serious adult illness and should be routine for one-year-old children, researchers have recommended.

A vaccine has been licensed in the US for the past two years and is routinely used in Japan and Korea, but in not Europe, where it is also commercially available. Two studies and an editorial in the journal *Archives of Disease in Childhood* published today argue that the time has come to make vaccinations routine.

One study, in Singapore, found that only 20 per cent of vaccinated children developed the disease after being in contact with carriers, compared to 87 per cent of unvaccinated children. Only one of those who contracted the disease after being vaccinated had been given the best vaccine.

A ten-year study of unvaccinated but previously healthy children under the age of 16 in Switzerland, underlined the dangers of the disease. It found that one in four of those who were hospitalised with chickenpox developed neurological problems. Almost a third had secondary bacterial infections.

In her editorial, Dr Anne Gershon, of the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, pointed out that chickenpox could lead to more severe illnesses in later life, including shingles, encephalitis, ataxia (loss of co-ordination) and infections. A Health Department spokesman said that there were no plans to include the vaccine in the childhood immunisation programme because it would first need to be shown that it was effective and safe and that enough people would be prepared to have it to make it worthwhile.

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Crisis a thi farm

Waldegra worst mo

le

Crisis year cuts a third from farm incomes

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

FARM incomes have fallen by a third this year, according to official estimates released yesterday. Farmers in Scotland have suffered worst, with earnings down by 42 per cent.

Lower prices for all main livestock and arable products are blamed for the collapse, along with oversupplied world markets, the relative strength of the pound and a poor growing season owing to adverse weather.

The fall in incomes this year comes on top of a sharp decline in 1997, adding up to a 63 per cent drop in real terms over the past two years. Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union, said: "The statistics paint a disturbing picture. They confirm that the current recession in farming is the worst since the 1930s. Farmers and growers can gain some hope from the knowledge that the outlook for 1999 appears somewhat brighter."

Among encouraging signs, Mr Gill said, were the recent weakening of sterling, lifting of the EU ban on beef exports and an expected recovery in world commodity markets.

The NFU says that if the cost of family labour is deducted from farm earnings, incomes fell by 51 per cent in real terms this year, reflecting a loss in the value of agricultural output of £3,500 million over the past two years. Especially sharp falls were already expected for the incomes of sheep and cattle farmers in hill regions where arable agriculture is not possible. In these areas, the average income per farm is expected to have dropped by 67 per cent this year, down to no more than £2,400, compared with £13,800 two years ago. Even with the £120 million aid package million announced by the Government last month, average hill farm incomes will not rise to more than £5,300 and some farms will run at a loss.

SHOW'S PRIME CUT

A carcass of beef was sold for a record £9.01, or £14 a lb, at the recent National Agricultural Show in London. The winner of the supreme British beef carcass award, from a Lincoln cross heifer from Fife, was purchased by Rites restaurant in Covent Garden. It plans to use the meat for its festive menu. The show was held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Weybridge, Surrey.

Tim Yeo, Shadow Agriculture Minister, called for an immediate end to the ban on beef on the bone, and for labelling rules requiring that food with a Union Jack logo "must be produced in the UK rather than merely processed here".

ly announced. Such aid will provide substantial additional assistance to this sector, as will the lifting of the export ban on British beef.

The Ministry of Agriculture measures the total income received by farmers, partners, directors, spouses and family workers. This has fallen from £3,363 million in 1997 to £2,300 million this year. Three years ago, total income stood at £5,139 million. Revised estimates are due next month.

George Lyon, president of the Scottish National Farmers' Union, said the 42 per cent drop meant continued Government support was vital for Scotland's agricultural future.

George Lyon, president of the Scottish National Farmers' Union, said the 42 per cent drop meant continued Government support was vital for Scotland's agricultural future.



Jeremy Rosenblatt is the new "people's representative" on the National Lottery Charities Board for Inner London. He said the job was "not a joy"

Man of the people has £30m to spend

FOR most people, being chosen to help to spend £30 million of lottery funds would be a dream come true (Suzie Steiner writes). But to Jeremy Rosenblatt, selected to represent the common man by the National Lottery Charities Board, the job is riddled with irritations.

"It's not a joy," he said last night. "You have the irritation of dealing with other people on the panel. It's a

matter of pragmatism." Mr Rosenblatt, a barrister from Westminster, was one of 32 people chosen at random from the electoral register and invited to apply for the position of "people's representative" for Inner London.

He was one of ten to be interviewed for the job, and he fitted the bill. Aged 37, he is a middle-class family man, educated at the London School of Economics, with left-wing leanings. "They

asked what my interests were, whether I was publicly aware, concerned and empathetic. They also asked about my prejudices. I think that they were testing my objectivity."

Other representatives were similarly selected for Outer London and Yorkshire and Humberside. If successful, the pilot scheme will be taken up by all nine regional lottery panels.

Mr Rosenblatt must attend monthly

meetings for a year to decide which charities in inner London are to receive lottery funding. Last week, the panel allocated more than £5 million, of which £750,000 went to a charity for people with HIV, and £650,000 went to an East End housing project.

He said of his appointment: "It's a pain sometimes. Time is the biggest drawback, and my ability to work my professional diary."

Waldegrave: my worst moment

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE discovery that "mad cow" disease had probably infected human beings was the worst moment of William Waldegrave's political life, the former Tory minister said yesterday.

Appearing before the BSE inquiry, Mr Waldegrave said the news had come as a "thunderbolt" when he learnt it from a Whitehall document in 1996. While Health Secretary from 1990 to 1992 and Minister of Agriculture from 1994 to 1995, he had been confident, on the basis of scientific advice, that the risk of BSE being able to pass to humans was remote.

Mr Waldegrave had moved on to Chief Secretary to the Treasury when Stephen Dorrell, Health Secretary from 1995 to 1997, told the House of Commons in March 1996 of the likelihood of a link be-

tween BSE and a new strain of the fatal brain disease CJD. "All through my period at the Ministry of Agriculture, it felt like the epidemic was disappearing slowly from animals. The minute arriving in my office from Mr [Douglas] Hogg [the Agriculture Minister] and Mr [Dorrell], I think, was the worst moment of my political life."

Mr Waldegrave was asked by the inquiry panel whether the Government had ever drawn up contingency plans about what to do if BSE were shown to have infected people. This had not been done, Mr Waldegrave said, because it would in effect have meant planning for the failure of the Government's policy on BSE and would have taken too much time and manpower.

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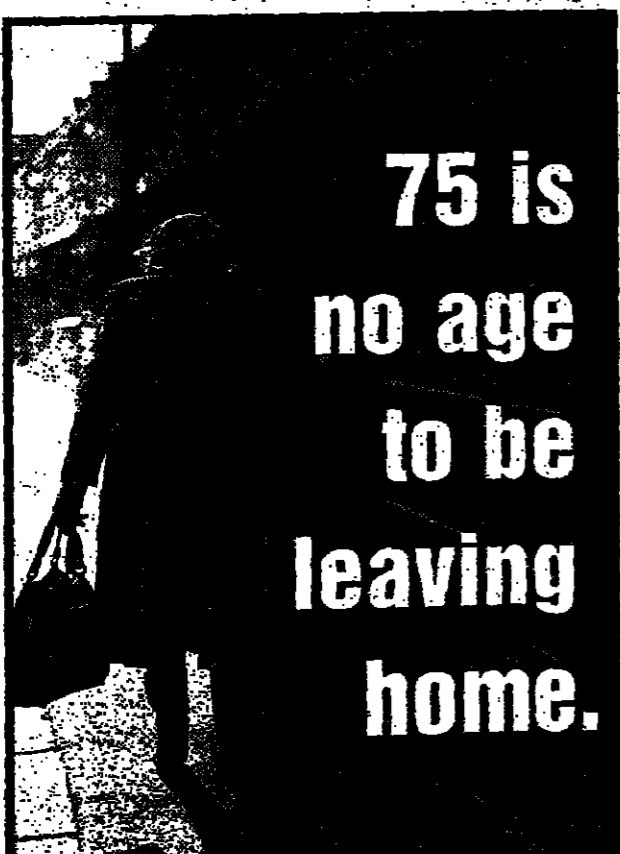
The property team at Standard Life Investments, the newly formed fund management house with assets of over £60 billion under management, have not just learned to accept these fluctuations, but to profit from them too. Everyone knows slumps become booms and vice versa. The real skill lies in predicting when one will turn into the other.

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David Constantine: blames English "insularity"

A talent lost in translation

BOOK translators are campaigning for recognition, seeking to have their names on the covers of books rather than buried somewhere inside in the small print.

The men and women who help to make some of the world's great literature accessible feel they have been overshadowed and undervalued for too long.

Pay is another sore point. Suggested fees are £65 for a thousand words; in reality, most translators receive between £40 and £60.

Many authors agree that translators deserve more. When Portugal's Jose Saramago won the Nobel Prize for Literature this year, David Constantine, a poet and fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, whose translations include Goethe's *Elective Affinities*, said "you had to look pretty hard" to find any mention of Giovanni Pontiero, the translator who enabled most of the world to read *The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis*.

"You won't find him on the cover," he said. "It's on about page four or five. As there are not that many translators working from Portuguese, it matters an awful lot in his case. Saramago is someone whose circulation depends on

Dalya Alberge on the growing dissatisfaction of those who make world literature accessible to all

a translator. Yet translators are perceived as an invisible agent."

Gordon Fielden of the Translators Association, part of the Society of Authors, said: "It is rarely the case that you can just transfer horizontally from one language to another. Languages have different tones and resonances."

"An entirely new work is created but one that gets across the peculiarities of the original. Translating is creating a work in a different language. It is not a decoding of something."

Dr Constantine blames a certain "conceit and insularity", a feeling that we do not "need foreign literature", for the translators' lack of recognition. In 1947 only 2 per cent of all the books published in Britain were translations, com-

pared with those in German-speaking countries, which topped 45 per cent.

Other countries present orders of merit to translators for services to literature: today Noel Clark will receive a Commander's Cross of the Republic of Poland for his work on Polish literature. Britain has nothing comparable.

Ros Schwartz, a translator who specialises in French, said: "There's a sort of conspiracy within the publishing world to pretend the book hasn't been translated. Bookshops think that people won't buy it."

"My concern is not just plastering one's name over the cover but saying to the reader, this is one person's reading. What you are getting is not a definitive translation."

There is, she said, a myth in publishing that translations do not sell. "But we know from, for example, Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*, that that's not true."

She said that when someone commented to a well-known Czech author that he had changed his style, his reply was: "No, I've changed my translator." That, she explained, highlights the extent to which a translator can affect the original.

HOW FOREIGN TEXTS ARE RIPE FOR INTERPRETATION

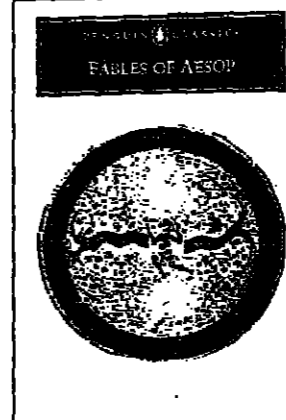
THESE two versions of an Aesop fable illustrate the translator's scope for expression. This fable gave rise to the English expression "sour grapes". *Omphalos* can mean sour, but it is more accurate to translate it as unripe, since the sourness was a result of the unripeness.

□ Sour Grapes (from *Fables of Aesop*, Penguin Classics, 1954, translated by S.A. Handford):

A hungry fox tried to reach some clusters of grapes which he saw hanging from a vine trained on a tree, but they were too high. So he went off and comforted himself by saying: "They weren't ripe anyhow."

(In the same way some men, when they fail through their own incapacity, blame circumstances.)

□ The Fox and the Bunch of Grapes (from *Aesop: The*



Complete Fables, Penguin Classics, 1954, translated by Olivia and Robert Temple.

A famished fox, seeing some bunches of grapes hanging from a vine which had grown in a tree, wanted to take some, but could not



Complete Fables, Penguin Classics, 1954, translated by Olivia and Robert Temple.

reach them. So he went away saying to himself: "Those are unripe." (Similarly, certain people, not being able to run their affairs well because of their inefficiency, blame the circumstances.)

When Aesop's *Fables* was published by Penguin in February, the translators Robert and Olivia Temple overturned the fables' image as gentle and sentimental Victorian morality tales. Olivia Temple ex-

plained that the Victorians used them to convey their Christian ideals to boys and girls: "They added to them. We've taken off the frills and stripped them to their bare bones. They are very satirical, used as arguing points in political discussion." The Victorians had excluded the lewd passages such as *The Camel who Shat in the River*.

Dr Constantine says it is not just publishers who are to blame: reviewers are just as guilty. "When a translated work is reviewed, the attention is wholly paid to the work in its original without any reference to the fact that someone has translated it. There is no assessment of their work. That may be because relatively few reviewers are competent to make that judgment."

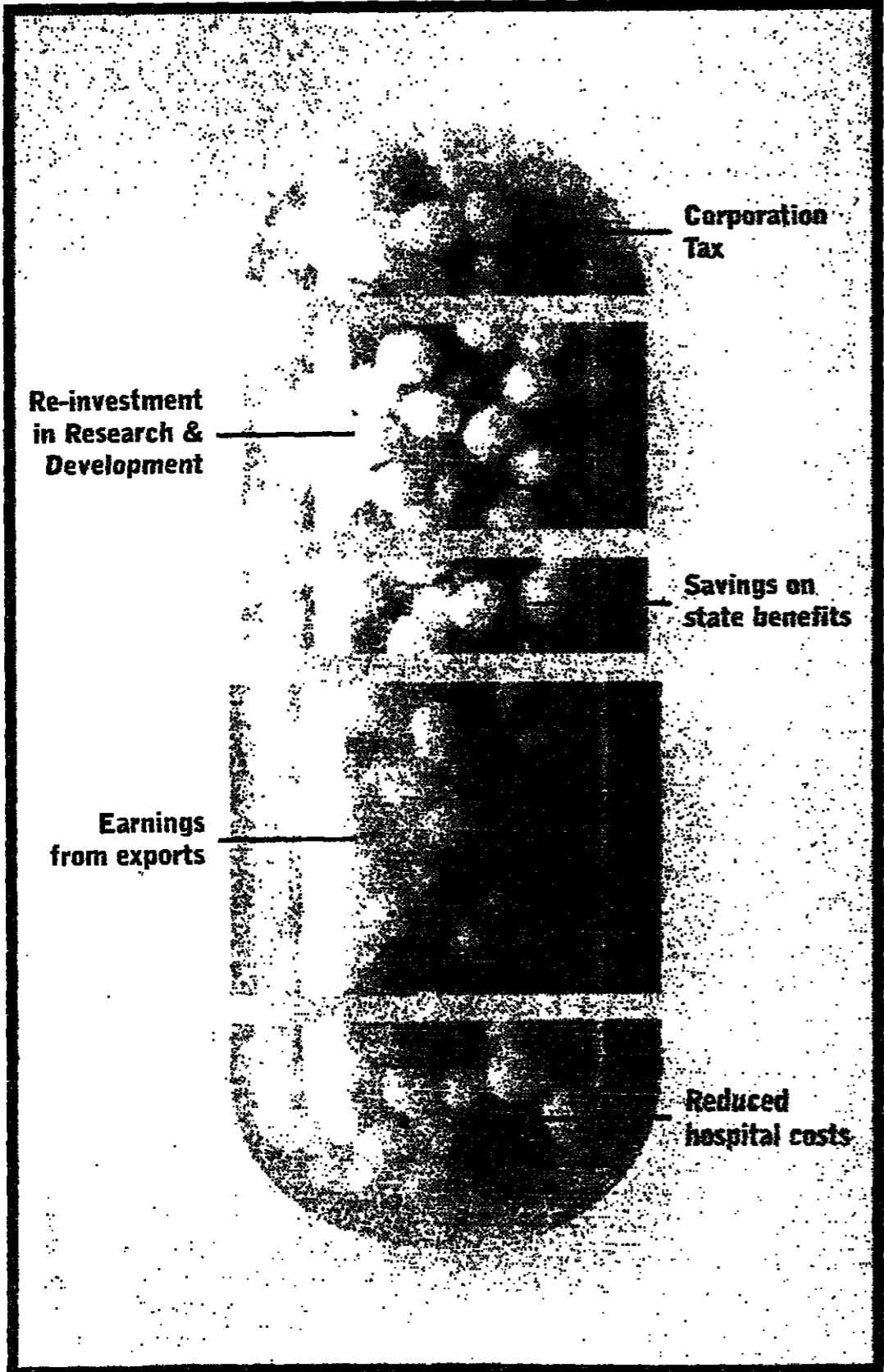
Above all, he added, "British readers are missing out. When the exam system was being revised, moving from O levels to GCSE, there was a

plea from translators that the school subject should not be English literature but 'literature'. That fell upon deaf ears." Little improves at university level, he said. However, the British Centre for Literary Translation, a leading research department at the University of East Anglia, is heading a campaign for the art form to be recognised as a proper area of literary and linguistic activity.

Guido Waldman, the editorial director at Harvill, the publishers, said that they valued foreign books so highly, they devoted as much as two-thirds of their list to them. They place translators' names on the title pages below the author; on hardback editions, they include a mini biography — but not on the front.

The cover, he believes, is "dedicated to the main message — this is the book and this is why we suggest you should buy it".

Sickness Benefit.



This year, the National Health Service will spend £6 billion on medicines - about 25 pence per person per day.

In return, the pharmaceutical industry will re-invest some 20% of its annual turnover in the search for new and improved medicines.

This investment will benefit the National Health Service by helping to reduce hospital admissions and saving over £10 billion a year on patient care.

The value of medicines goes far beyond supporting the NHS. The pharmaceutical industry provides employment for more than 300,000 people and exports over £5 billion of medicines a year, producing one of the country's largest trade surpluses of £2 billion.

Over the past five years pharmaceutical companies have committed over £2 billion in capital investment, and more is planned.

The benefit of the industry is also felt within the Treasury as pharmaceutical companies in Britain pay hundreds of millions of pounds in Corporation Tax each year.

But perhaps the industry is least known for its investment in education, funding half of all post-graduate training for GPs and supporting universities to the tune of £100 million a year.

If all this good work is not encouraged, it wouldn't just be the industry that would fall sick.

It would be the country.

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TAKE CARE OF AN INDUSTRY THAT TAKES CARE OF BRITAIN

NEWS IN BRIEF

CPS studies report on Serb major

The Crown Prosecution Service is studying a report by Ministry of Defence Police into allegations that a Parachute Regiment officer breached the Official Secrets Act. Major Milos Stankovic, the son of a Serbian refugee, has been under investigation for a year on suspicion of passing unauthorised information to Bosnian Serbs during the war in Bosnia. It is expected to be some time before the CPS decides whether to prosecute Major Stankovic, 36.

Right this time

A burglar who switched names with a fine defaulter to get bail and abscond from Sunderland magistrates was jailed for five years at Newcastle Crown Court. Kevin Robson, 20, admitted perverting justice, escape and burglary.

Lockerbie blast

Thirty people were evacuated from their homes in Lockerbie after a man was seriously burnt in an explosion in a house. Niven Milligan, 47, was taken to hospital in Glasgow with 40 per cent burns from the suspected gas blast.

Cool cat rescued

A kitten stuck for two days after crawling 20ft along a pipe below a house was kept alive with a supply of ice cubes. Linda Fletcher, from Portchester, Hampshire, slid the ice down the pipe while firemen and the RSPCA dug her pet free.

Noise trials

The Government has launched a pilot study into the effects of aircraft noise on people's sleep. Glenda Jackson, junior Transport Minister, said trials near Manchester Airport would involve measuring people's sleep in their own homes.

Drunken drivers may have cars confiscated

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

DRINK-DRIVERS face having their vehicles confiscated and sold off as part of the annual Christmas anti-drink-drive campaign.

Senior police officers are planning to target men aged 17-24 and hard-hitting adverts giving warning of the dangers of drinking and driving are being placed for the first time in young men's magazines such as *Loaded* and *FHM*.

The campaign, which will be launched today in Central London by John Reid, the Transport Minister, will involve television and newspaper advertising aimed at the same age group.

Police in Essex said yesterday that they would seize the cars of drink-drivers and after conviction urge magistrates to allow them to confiscate and sell the vehicles.

Chief Inspector Tony Rayner, the operations manager with the traffic division in Essex Police, said: "A drink-driver is breaking the law and anyone who uses a vehicle in the commission of a crime faces having that vehicle taken away from them."

Mr Rayner called on magistrates to back police requests for the confiscation and sale of vehicles irrespective of whether the car was an old banger worth £500 or a £15,000 BMW.

He said that too often magistrates looked at the value of the car and tended not to issue confiscation orders in cases involving more expensive vehicles. "It is a problem which we hope magistrates will look at," he added.

Under confiscation powers, cash raised from the sale of confiscated vehicles can be used to help pedestrians or to promote road safety initiatives.

Oldest football stand to relive glory days

A NEGLECTED wooden football stand threatened with demolition has been discovered to be the oldest in Britain (Adrian Lee writes).

The stand at Milton Keynes City Football Club was built in 1899 by the London and North Western Railway for its employees. Until club officials found a photograph taken in 1900, and a newspaper cutting from the previous year recording its opening, it was be-

lieved that the 1904 wooden grandstand in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, was the oldest. The club is to launch a £50,000 appeal to restore the stand, which has six tiers and was built for 220 spectators. They sat on boards and cushions until flip-top seats were installed in the 1980s.

Bob Flight, the club's chairman, said: "We wanted it pulled down but now we realise what an asset it is."

TV tried to save Arctic

Paris and Bonn in pact on child law

Silv

TV trio plucked to safety after Arctic ordeal

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A THREE-MAN television crew, stranded for six weeks in appalling weather and bitter cold on a Russian island in the Arctic Ocean, was rescued by a Russian helicopter yesterday, just as food supplies were running out.

Rory McGuinness, an Australian cameraman, Tatsuhiko Kobayashi, his Japanese producer, and Nikita Ovsyannikov, a Russian wildlife expert, had been filming polar bears on Wrangel island, 200 miles north of the Russian mainland and 350 miles west of Alaska, when the weather closed in just before they were due to fly out in mid-October.

High winds and blizzards made all flights impossible until yesterday, when a helicopter from the Russian Ministry for Emergencies took advantage of a full in the weather and a brief period of half light to pick the men up with their equipment and fly them to Pevek on the northern Russian coast, 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

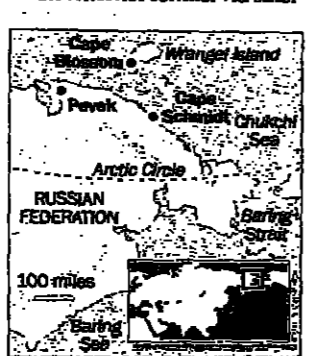
Speaking from Pevek, a small port which itself has been suffering problems over winter supplies, Mr Ovsyannikov said that the team was in good spirits. "We were in a cabin with enough fuel, quite safe and everyone was healthy," he said. "The only real problem was that we were running out of food." He said

they had developed a routine to survive. "I was doing the cooking for the guys and they were washing dishes and supplying water from snow." He said that the only supplies left were rice, some grain known as grechka, beans, sugar and tea. Meat had run out a week earlier.

A spokeswoman for NHK Television, which employs Mr Kobayashi, confirmed last night that all three were in good health but tired. She said the main difficulties had been fighting the cold, as well as eking out their supplies.

On their return to the mainland, the three adventurers went to a local restaurant to get their first decent meal in weeks, Mr Ovsyannikov said.

Despite their isolation, the three had remained in radio contact with local villagers and could call the mainland or make Internet contact via satellite telephone.



Just imagine—even in our technological age, they fell into a situation like a Jack London novel, with polar nights in an isolated house, all quiet, with just the three of them." Mr Ovsyannikov's wife, Irina Meryushina, said in Moscow. But she added: "For Nikita the main thing is always not to lose one's head and not fall into panic... so I wasn't worried. It was only a question of time."

A spokeswoman for NHK Television said that there had been fears earlier that, with the swift onset of 24-hour darkness, any rescue flight would have had to be postponed until spring and that the men would have had to rely on food and fuel drops to survive. As it was, they had struggled to preserve fuel supplies to keep the temperature above freezing point inside their cabin.

Outside, the air was down to -20C (-4F), but it felt much colder because of the chill factor in the high winds. Mr Kobayashi was also troubled by complications as a result of a recent eye operation, according to Russian television. He had also not packed enough warm clothes.

An earlier attempt to rescue the team by snowmobile was abandoned because shifting ice prevented an expedition from the mainland across the frozen ocean.



Nikita Ovsyannikov, a wildlife expert, one of the team who endured weeks of bitter cold before being rescued

Final bid by UN chief for Pan Am trial deal

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, is to make a last-ditch attempt this weekend to secure a deal with Libya over the Lockerbie suspects.

With three weeks until the tenth anniversary of the Pan Am bombing, Mr Annan is planning an emergency trip to Libya to discuss the handing over of the two men suspected of carrying out the bombing.

He will warn the Libyans that Britain and America are preparing for tougher sanctions unless Tripoli responds soon to their offer of a trial in The Netherlands. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said in remarks published yesterday that Libya must comply promptly.

Mr Annan, currently on a tour of North Africa, is hoping to travel to Libya on Saturday from Egypt or Tunisia and meet officials just inside the border. If a deal to extradite the suspects, Abdel Baset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimah, can be concluded, he will travel to Tripoli for talks with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

So far, Mr Annan has not had any response from the Libyans, and is unlikely to make the journey without receiving assurances that the men will be sent to The Hague.

Britain and America have made clear to the UN that they will not accept any fudge, or negotiations about the conditions of the suspects' trial. Mr Annan has little room for manoeuvre, and knows that London and Washington will not agree to any postponement of the extradition or prior lifting of sanctions.

Officially, Britain insists that it has been encouraged by the Libyans' response to the August offer, and that clarification talks are still going on. Privately, however, officials say it is unclear whether Colonel Gaddafi dares risk sending the men to The Hague, fearing a backlash at home and possible revelations at any trial of official Libyan involvement in the plot.

Paris and Bonn in pact on child law

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN POTS DAM

FRANCE and Germany yesterday agreed to co-ordinate their positions on reunited families and bring closer together French and German law regulating access to the children of broken marriages.

The justice ministers of the two nations will meet to discuss the details on December 14. One of the beneficiaries of such a shift in policy could be Catherine Laylie, the wife of Britain's Ambassador to Washington, Sir Christopher Meyer. Lady Meyer, like other divorced French spouses, had her children illegally snatched by her former husband, who gained the support of his local north German court.

In a recent case, a French woman, having been given access to her children, collected them from the home of her ex-husband in Germany. On the way back, she was forced off the road by three cars full of hired men, who brought the children to her former husband. A German court decided that, although the action was illegal, the children should remain with the father.

There have been many such cases, presented as kidnapping by the French press and hardly noticed in Germany.

Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, said: "One court should decide on the interests of the child—the court in the country where they last lived together as a family."

Cannabis boom brings gang warfare to Albanian hills

FROM JAMES PETTIFER
IN LAZARAT

HIGH in the Albanian hills, 30 miles from the Greek border, Ilija Rama looks at his wounds, including a partly healed 4in gash on his forearm. "I had 11 of these. I was clinically dead."

He survived, somehow. Mr Rama is one victim of Albania's burgeoning new drug wars that are threatening the fragile political stability after last year's anarchy. An explo-

sion of cannabis growing across the south has dropped the price of a kilo from about \$600 (£360) to only \$180.

Most of the drugs go to Greece, or by speedboat across the Gulf of Otranto to Italy. Cannabis is now the largest cash generator in Albania. Impoverished small farmers find it grows well here, and international efforts to crack down have foundered on badly paid police, who are easily bribed to burn a few plants but leave most of the

crop intact. The high point of success was in 1995, when more than 100,000 plants were destroyed. Last year that shrank to virtually nothing.

A journey in the hills here is to travel between mutually antipathetic little towns, with Socialists and ethnic Greek mafiosi in charge of the drug and smuggling trade, and strongholds like medieval fortresses that back Sali Berisha, the conservative former President. With 4,000 inhabitants here, the village can raise 1,000

armed men and it lives by the gun. There are also rocket launchers and heavier weapons as well as the ubiquitous AK47. The road here is littered with burnt-out cars and police vehicles, relics of a pitched battle fought two months ago when government forces tried to storm it. But the challenge from Tirana was easily beaten off.

Lazarat is confident it can win again. Outsiders are not welcome and only a long explanation that I had known

Azim Haydari, the assassinated opposition leader, allowed me into the village for a few minutes to see his new monument to the dead hero. A tall man covered me with his German pistol throughout.

Neratin Secka, the former Interior Minister, blames the drug business for the rising instability. "Last winter, we had reduced the murder rate from 200 to 40 a month. But now it is going the wrong way. I am an optimist about Albania with this coalition.

but ten or 15 people were dead in [the city of] Durres last month."

The Government's response has been to appoint hardline former Communists prominent in the Enver Hoxha era from the notorious internal police unit 326 to senior police jobs in the southern towns. But drug money talks to them and there seems little prospect of change as Greece's booming cannabis market brings new Mercedes by the dozen to southern Albanian streets.



President Milosevic and his hardline, ambitious wife, Mira Markovic

Power struggle grips Belgrade

Wife of Milosevic increasing her control, writes Richard Owen in Belgrade

SIGNS of a power struggle are surfacing in Yugoslavia, six weeks after Slobodan Milosevic, the President, bowed to the threat of Nato airstrikes and agreed to a ceasefire in the rebellious province of Kosovo.

In the cafes of Belgrade, where the jostling for power is debated with growing frankness by Serb intellectuals, academics and journalists, opinion is divided over whether the authoritarian President has been strengthened or weakened by the Kosovo fallout.

Mr Milosevic's ambitious and powerful wife, Mira Markovic, a hardline Communist academic of the old school, has taken advantage of the in-fighting to advance her own position, and that of her party, the Yugoslav Left (JUL). But whether she has done so to bolster or undermine her husband is a moot point.

"The regime is tightly controlled and interpreting the omens is a skill similar to old-style Kremlinology," said Dejan Anastasijevic, a journalist on the weekly magazine Vreme. Speculation has been fuelled by a purge in the

top echelons of the Yugoslav Federation (Serbia and Montenegro). First Jovica Stanicic, the astute head of the security services, was replaced by Rade Markovic, a police official and protégé of Ms Markovic (although not related to her). Then Milorad Vucelic, deputy leader of Mr Milosevic's Socialist Party, was dismissed as was General Ljubisa Velickovic, head of the air force.

The move that caused most stir was the abrupt dismissal last week of General Mornicilo Perisic, the Chief of Staff, a national hero dubbed the "Knight of Mostar" for his role as commander of the Serb forces during the conflict in Bosnia. General Perisic's crime, it seems, was to question the use of brutal methods to put down the rising by ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, with wholesale shelling and burning of villages alleged to be strongholds of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army.

When Nato threatened airstrikes, General Perisic's unwelcome advice to Mr Milosevic was that Serb forces "cannot take on the whole world".

Because the general was a signatory to the ceasefire agreement hammered out by Richard Holbrooke, the American special envoy, in mid-October, Mr Milosevic could not move against his Chief of Staff immediately. When he did, General Perisic astonished even veteran observers of Yugoslavia by hitting back.

In a statement released to an independent news agency (in itself an unprecedented act), General Perisic said that he had been replaced in an "inadequate and illegal way... This establishment clearly does not like officials who use their own heads." Ominously for Mr Milosevic, he added: "I remain at the disposal of the army, the people and the state."

The chances of an army coup

led by the former Chief of Staff, if that is what he meant to imply, are not rated highly. On the other hand, the forced withdrawal of Serb special forces from Kosovo and the arrival of Western monitors is resented by many officers.

Ms Markovic is said to be "stiffening her husband's backbone" in the face of the discontent. It was she as much as the President who clashed with Mr Stanicic and General Perisic when they refused to use "excessive force" to crush student protests against Mr Milosevic in 1996. And she is ambitious in her own right and is said to have moved closer to Vojislav Seselj, the Serb ultra-nationalist whose Radical Party is a key element in the Milosevic coalition.

"Mira's Yugoslav Left is gradually taking over the levers of power from her husband's Socialists," Mr Anastasijevic said. □ Malisevo, Serbia: President Milosevic has refused to tell Serb police to abandon their base here, a key Kosovo position. Their presence is said to be frightening hundreds of ethnic Albanians from returning home. (Reuters)

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Gaza scandal threatens aid

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE pledge by 50 foreign donors at a Washington conference this week of more than \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) in aid to the Palestinians has revived concern over the corruption endemic in Yasser Arafat's fledgling state.

Britain, with its increased pledge of £105 million over a three-year period, is sending Derek Fatchett, a Foreign Office minister, back to the West Bank and Gaza Strip next week with, among other aims, a determination to try to ensure accountability about how the money will be spent.

Whitehall officials are concerned because £55 million of Britain's contribution will go to European Union programmes. An EU report this week said that large sums from earlier contributions had been squandered on luxury villas for Arafat loyalists in Gaza. It showed that an estimated \$20 million earmarked to provide cheap housing for Palestinians had been used instead to finance luxury apartments for rich supporters of Mr Arafat. Although he is of ascetic personal habits, the Palestinian leader is known

to surround himself with profligate big-spenders. EU auditors were quoted as saying the money was spent "without any economic controls and is not recoverable".

Ten of the apartments involved in one of the housing scandals have been built opposite the squalid Nuseirat refugee camp, south of Gaza City. Palestinian sources said that 90 per cent of the EU-financed apartments were given to "returnees", those cronies of Mr Arafat who had lived with him in his earlier sojourns abroad in Beirut and Tunis. Two of them were said to be in the direct control of the Palestinian Industry Ministry.

The housing project was part of an earlier \$60 million EU aid package and was administered by the Palestinian Housing Authority, which has refused to meet EU auditors, according to the Union's internal financial control report seen by *The Sunday Times*.

It had been originally planned to use the package for a self-sustaining building programme to provide cheap mortgages to Palestinians on modest incomes. The proceeds

from the mortgage repayments were intended to finance further construction. Instead, building costs rose to about \$50,000 a unit — 80 per cent higher than planned.

According to the EU auditors, this made the apartments "inaccessible to the layer of the population for which they were planned".

However, Abdel Rahman Hamad, the Palestinian Authority Housing Minister, yesterday disputed the claims. "I don't see any corruption in housing," he told a press conference.

He said that low-income Palestinians were the chief beneficiaries of subsidised housing in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, claiming that 90 per cent of the buyers of 922 EU-funded housing units in Gaza had incomes of less than \$600 a month.

He acknowledged that buyers did include some Arafat associates who had returned from exile.

Earlier, an internal Palestinian audit found that half the Palestinian Authority's £194 million budget for 1997 had been lost to corruption or mismanagement.



Thousands of ultra-orthodox Jews in their traditional black and fur hats joined hands and packed a Jerusalem street yesterday to celebrate the wedding of two teenagers from dynastic Hassidic families. The groom, Yisrael Menachem Alter, 19, is the son of the Gur Rebbe, the leader of the Gur Hassidic sect, and his bride, Esther Eiger, 18, is the granddaughter of the Rabbi of Lublin

Saddam relative dares to go home

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

BARZAN AL-TIKRITI, a half-brother of President Saddam Hussein, made a surprise return to Iraq yesterday after an absence of nearly a decade. He said his intention was to quash rumours that he was about to defect.

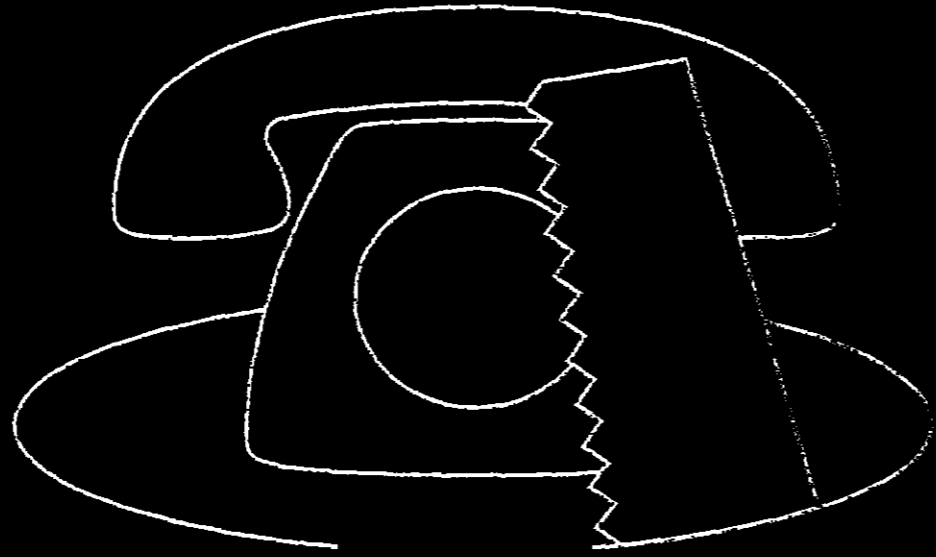
Dissidents had believed that Mr al-Tikriti, who had served as Iraq's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, would never dare go home because of a long-running feud with Saddam's volatile son, Uday, whom he once described as "greedy and unfit for power".

Diplomats believe that his safety has been guaranteed by Saddam, who is keen to foster a façade of unity while Baghdad still faces the threat of American airstrikes over weapons inspections. According to black-bordered banners hung in Baghdad squares, Mr al-Tikriti is to receive condolences in the family's home region

of Tikrit over a three-day period starting tomorrow on the death last month of his wife.

The barzans in Baghdad said that Mr al-Tikriti "will receive condolences for his late wife in his home town, Owja". His wife, Ahlam Khairallah Tulfa, a sister of Saddam's wife, died of cancer in Switzerland last month. The body was returned to Iraq last week.

Leaders of a campaign to try Saddam and other Iraqi leaders said Mr al-Tikriti's return was prompted by fears that he might face indictment. The Pinochet affair had shown him that he could not expect immunity. "To show that we mean business, we did start proceedings a few days ago against Barzan," said Ann Clwyd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley, who chairs indict. "As head of Iraqi intelligence [from 1979 to 1983], he was responsible for widespread acts of murder, torture and rape."



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Thieves give Paris rich the sausage treatment

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A SOPHISTICATED gang of burglars, armed with pistols, masks and a copy of the French *Who's Who*, is terrorising the smartest neighbourhoods of Paris by breaking into the homes of wealthy celebrities, tying up the occupants and making off with cash, jewellery and other valuables.

The gang appears to be targeting the Parisian beau monde, including showbusiness personalities, politicians and businessmen. Most of the burglaries follow a similar pattern and almost all have taken place in the expensive 16th arrondissement in the west of Paris or the exclusive suburb of Neuilly. In recent months, they have struck the homes of singers Charles Aznavour, Sylvie Vartan and Michel Sardou, the businessman-writer Paul-Loup Sulitzer, the mother of fashion designer Yves Saint-Laurent, and a former Cabinet minister, Lionel Stoleru.

The latest victims are the hugely wealthy Trigano family, the founders of the Club Méditerranée resorts, whose apartment was ransacked last weekend. Gisela Trigano, whose husband Serge, the former head of Club Méd, was on a foreign trip at the time, was woken in the early hours of Sunday by at least three men wearing masks and gloves who had broken in by forcing the lock on the apartment door. Mme Trigano was threatened, tied up with masking tape and then watched as the robbers looted her home of cash and jewellery worth an estimated Fr1 million (€108,000).

Almost precisely the same technique was used to rob M Stoleru, the former Socialist Employment Minister who now runs an orchestra and lives just a few streets away in the 16th arrondissement. At 3am on November 6, M Stoleru was awakened "by two masked men who hit him in the face with a cosh". M Stoleru and his wife were bound to the bed with electrical wire, and for three quarters of an hour the robbers threatened them and demanded to know the whereabouts of their safe. M Stoleru finally persuaded his attackers there was no strongbox, and the thieves fled with Fr15,000 in cash.

The robbers appear to be targeting not just wealthy and prominent Parisians, but also their relatives and spouses, often striking when only one person is at home, as was shown last December when the wife of Charles Aznavour and the mother of the industrialist Vincent Bolloré were robbed in their homes. Both robberies were carried out in the 16th arrondissement. "This is, sadly, a well-known technique, often employed against elderly people," one investigator from the crime-fighting Brigade de Répression du Banditisme (BRB) said. In French police parlance, the tying-up of victims during a robbery is known as *sauçissonnage* or sausage-making, after the trussing methods used by French butchers. There are indications that more than one gang may be at work. On November 5, the home in Neuilly of

M Sardou, one of France's most popular singers and composers, was looted of Fr2 million in cash and valuables without waking up the occupants. Earlier this year, the celebrated perfumier Jean-Paul Guérlain was taken hostage while his grand estate outside Paris was ransacked, and the family home of M Sulitzer, a best-selling writer, was similarly robbed at gunpoint last March. "I don't know if we can yet talk about a 'fashion' in this sort of crime," one police investigator said. "But it certainly shows that information on the best people to target circulates around the underworld."

Diners stricken by horse parasite

By BEN MACINTYRE

MORE than 400 people in southwestern France have been stricken with potentially life-threatening intestinal parasites after eating horse-meat imported from Serbia. More than 30 people needed hospital treatment when the epidemic of food poisoning from the *Trichinella* threadworm broke out in the Toulouse region, including one man who went into a prolonged coma and is still unable to speak. The victims have formed an association to sue those responsible. The first cases of *Trichinella* poisoning, which can affect the heart and prove fatal in five out of every 1,000 cases, were identified in early October and the parasite has since been traced to a single horse that was imported from Serbia. France consumed 37,000 tonnes of horsemeat last year: 34,300 tonnes of the total were imported, principally from Poland, Canada and the United States.



The popular singers Charles Aznavour, Michel Sardou and Sylvie Vartan have been among the Parisian celebrities targeted by the gang

APR 20 1999

WORLD IN BRIEF

Primakov hints at death penalty

Moscow: Yevgeni Primakov, Russia's Prime Minister, alarmed human rights activists by suggesting that the moratorium on the death penalty should be revoked (Anna Blundy writes). A total of 850 people are on death row. No executions have been carried out since 1996, when President Yeltsin declared the moratorium, but courts still order about 200 death sentences a year. Mr Primakov, speaking in response to the murder of Galina Starovoitova, a leading pro-democracy figure, said that violent criminals had "thrown down a challenge. We may be talking about the physical elimination of those who raise their hands against society."

Hanks' second take

New York: A day after reports that Tom Hanks, the Hollywood star, said he regretted giving \$10,000 (£6,000) to the Clinton legal defence fund, the actor said he still supports the President. "If I was asked to do it again, I would probably give twice as much," Mr Hanks said as he entered a benefit event for Aids research. In an interview in *The New Yorker*, the actor said that he regretted making the donation in the light of President Clinton's admission about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. (AP)

Nestlé in poison scare

Frankfurt: The Swiss-based food giant Nestlé was forced to clear some products off supermarket shelves in the German state of Hesse after a protest group claimed to have laced them with poison. The group, "Robin Food of Sherwood Forest", said that it had poisoned five products made by the company or its subsidiaries to protest against Nestlé's use of genetically engineered food products. The company said that it was an extortion attempt. No trace of poison had been found by last night. (AFP)

Beijing dissidents held

Beijing: In an apparent attempt to crush a budding opposition party, the police have detained two of China's most prominent dissidents and three other democracy campaigners, a human rights group and relations of those taken into custody said. Those arrested were Xu Wenli, Qin Yongmin and other members of the China Democracy Party. Li Peng, Chairman of the National People's Congress, was quoted yesterday as saying that Western-style democracy was inappropriate for China. (AP)

Human rights charge

Cairo: An Egyptian court ordered a 15-day detention of the secretary-general of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights, Hafez Abu Saada, and accused him of taking foreign funds with the intention of "harming national interests", judicial officials said. The order was made by the state prosecutor after Mr Abu Saada was questioned about a \$25,000 (£15,000) cheque from the British parliamentary human rights committee. (AFP)

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Respect Chile, Albright declares

Washington: The Clinton Administration, split over the Pinochet case, has said that the international community should show "significant respect" for Chile's internal efforts to deal with the abuses committed by the general's regime (Ian Brodie writes).

The comment, breaking Washington's silence on the issue, was made by Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State. But she stopped short of opposing Spain's efforts to seek the general's extradition from Britain, her comments reflecting US indecision while officials debate how it should proceed.

"I'm not in the business of giving advice on this," said Ms Albright when reporters asked what she had advised the British Government. "I think we're not prepared to make a statement about the merits of the case." America backed bringing criminals to justice, but citizens of Chile were "wrestling with a very difficult problem", she said.

Pinochet's Surrey move

By JOANNA BALE AND HELEN JOHNSTONE

GENERAL Augusto Pinochet moved into a rented house on an exclusive private estate in Surrey last night after being asked to leave the psychiatric hospital where he has spent the past five weeks.

Staff at the Grovelands Priory Hospital, north London, breathed a sigh of relief as the Chilean general's entourage of assistants, bodyguards and police officers left for a nine-bedroom mansion on the Wentworth estate in Virginia Water. He is expected to stay there under 24-hour police guard until Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, decides whether to extradite him to Spain or allow him to return to Chile.

A hospital source said last night: "We are so glad to see the back of him at last." The general, who is used to staying at the world's finest hotels, was rumoured to be a fussy patient who complained about his surroundings. There were also concerns that the presence of so many police officers and protesters at the hospital was causing disruption to the patients and local residents.

His new home, with its extensive walled grounds, will



How Plantu sees the general's plight in *Le Monde*

give him the luxury and extra privacy he has yearned for.

Chile has paid his legal and accommodation costs of about £1 million and Spain has offered to pay the £35,000-a-week bill for the police security, so the cost to the British taxpayer of his stay is minimal.

The wealthy residents of the

1,750-acre, 600-house estate, where the Duchess of York once rented a £6,000-a-week house, include Bruce Forsyth, the entertainer, Bryan Forbes, the actor, and his wife Nanette Newman, and Sir Robert Haslam, the former chairman of British Gas. General Pinochet's move there was said to

have been delayed at the last minute when the owner of the house, on being told the identity of his new tenant, insisted on extra insurance against damage by bombs or guns.

One woman who rents a property close to where he is expected to stay, near the golf club, expressed apprehension over the security implications last night, saying: "My first reaction when I heard the rumours was, 'Oh God, how safe is it going to be to live here?'"

A woman resident living near the mansion said: "It's a bit like being told Adolf Hitler is moving into the house next door, but to be honest it doesn't surprise me. There are supposed to be Russian underworld figures and members of the Hong Kong triads living around us on the estate."

Sheila Wickens, 60, who has lived there for 20 years, said: "To rent a nine-bedroom mansion there would cost at least £10,000 a month."

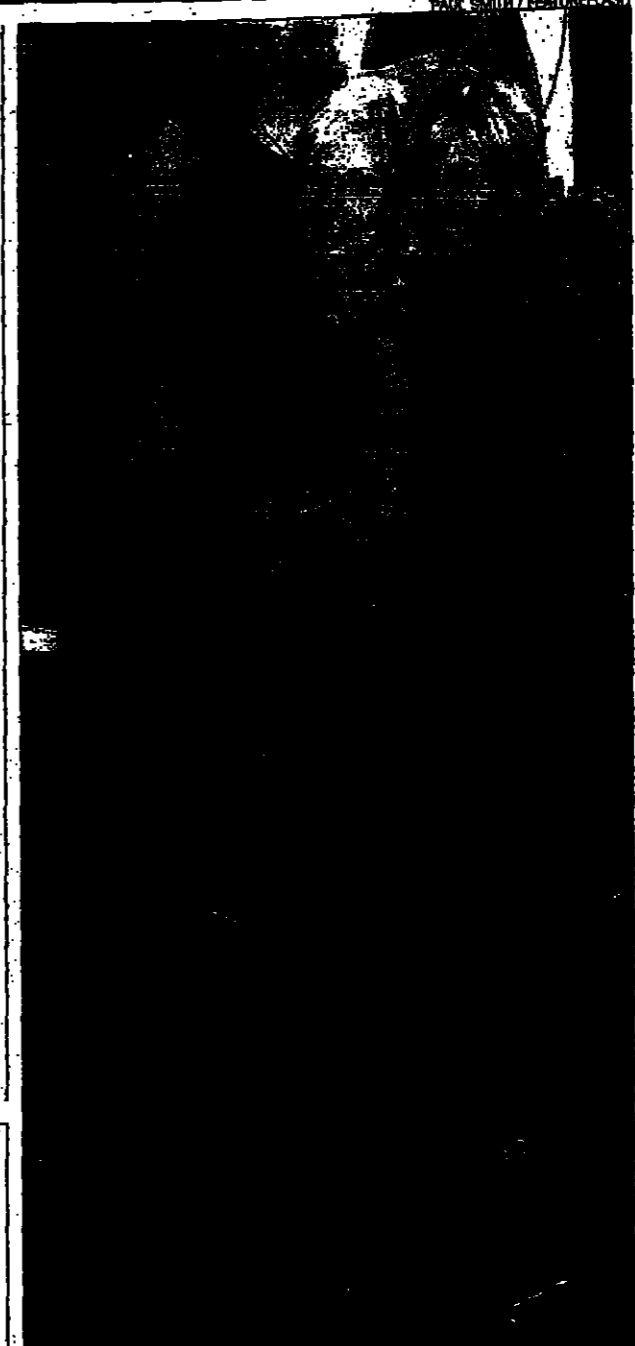
A male resident, speaking from a large property via an intercom on the locked gates, expressed regret that residents did not have enough say over who moved into the estate. He added: "The main qualification these days is money."

Michael Caplan, General Pinochet's solicitor, said yesterday that the former Chilean dictator had been distressed at reports that he had overstayed his welcome at the hospital, which had threatened legal action unless he left. Mr Caplan said that the 83-year-old general had not been lingering unnecessarily, but arrangements for him to be moved on Monday had fallen through. He added: "Senator Pinochet and his family have asked me to issue a statement setting the record straight."

"The senator has always been anxious to move from the hospital as soon as possible and suggestions that he has been reluctant to do so are wholly unfounded. The senator's bail conditions required approval from police and Spain before any move. Approval was received for a move only last Friday afternoon."

The hospital made clear on Monday that General Pinochet no longer needed its specialist on-site care and he was fit enough to continue his rehabilitation elsewhere.

□ Madrid: José Miguel Insulza, the Chilean Foreign Minister, said that Britain and Spain had shown some signs of being prepared to accept his request for General Pinochet to be sent home, but agreed he had received no promises.



Claiming they have been spurned for being lesbians, the actresses Eilex, DeGeneres, right, and her lover Anne Heche are leaving Hollywood. Ms DeGeneres confessed her sexuality in the same week that her character in the sitcom *Eilex* blurted out the line "I'm gay". Ratings fell thereafter, and ABC cancelled the show six months ago.

Republicans show price of perjury

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS spiced up their impeachment hearings yesterday by calling two women who suffered severe punishment for lying under oath about sex.

The aim was to puncture Democratic claims that the case against President Clinton is trivial. Democrats railed against the move as a stunt.

The hearing came as Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee tried to expand their investigation into alleged fundraising abuses in the Clinton re-election campaign.

The committee is supposed to vote on Articles of Impeachment by next week. They called Pam Parsons, formerly one of America's most successful women's basketball coaches, and Barbara Battalino, a former psychiatrist at a hospital for ex-servicemen. Dr Battalino told committee members that she had admitted performing oral sex in her government office on a Vietnam veteran.

The act was consensual but when the man sued for medical malpractice and sexual harassment, she lied in a deposition. Trapped by secret tapes she was prosecuted for perjury, put on probation and sentenced to six months' house arrest. In 1984 Ms Parsons sued *Sports Illustrated* for libel for saying that she had a lesbian relationship with at least one player on her team and recruited other players "with sex in mind".

Under oath she untruthfully denied frequenting a lesbian bar. She lost the case, was indicted for perjury and jailed for four months.

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THE TIMES WEEKLY

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Voters deliver blow to Quebec separatist party

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CANADA breathed a sigh of relief yesterday after the Quebec separatist Parti Quebecois won a majority of seats in this week's elections in the overwhelmingly French-speaking province but failed to win sufficient popular support to launch a quick referendum.

Political observers had forecast a landslide victory for Lucien Bouchard, the leader of the Parti Quebecois (PQ). However, a last-minute surge by the opposition Liberals, combined with a surprisingly strong showing by a tiny right-wing third party, confounded the experts. The PQ won 75 seats while the Liberal Party of Jean Charest got 48. The Action Démocratique du Québec (ADQ) held its only seat.

However, in what really counts for a possible future referendum on separation from the rest of Canada, the PQ won only 43 per cent of the popular vote, against 44 per cent for the Liberals.

The ADQ doubled its vote to 12 per cent compared with the last election four years ago.

As late as last weekend, pundits were predicting as many as 90 seats for Mr Bouchard and a rapid exit from Quebec by Mr Charest, who only returned to his native province last March after 14 years in Ot-

tawa as a federal politician with the Conservative Party. Despite his election defeat, Mr Charest announced that he would stay on in Quebec as opposition leader for four more years. He was speaking to cheering supporters who had expected their party to suffer a terrible loss.

Meanwhile in Ottawa federal politicians, as well as the business community in the rest of Canada, heaved a sigh of relief at the lack of any early prospect of a referendum on separation.

Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister, said the election showed that voters were most concerned about the economy, jobs, health and education.

He declared: "As long as Mr Bouchard respects these priorities, he will have our co-operation. Our country is our house, our family, ourselves. We must protect it."

Mr Bouchard's chances were damaged during the campaign after he alienated public service workers in Quebec City and refused to sign a new labour agreement with them. He was also a hostage to contradictory promises, at different times offering a new social union with the rest of Canada and a referendum on separation. However, he took solace

in his solid victory, almost identical to that of the last election when the PQ won 77 seats to the Liberals' 47.

Mr Bouchard, who lost a leg to flesh-eating bacteria four years ago, celebrated his win by telling his supporters: "We solicited a mandate to assemble the winning conditions for a sovereignty referendum for Quebec, a sovereignty in which we extend a hand to all of our citizens and all of our neighbours."

Mr Bouchard has promised only to hold another referendum when "the winning conditions" exist. He had refused throughout the campaign and again in his acceptance speech to specify what he considered to be winning conditions.

The Liberals strongly dislike talk of a new sovereignty referendum, insisting instead that Quebec should remain part of federal Canada.

"If the people of Quebec decided to vote for the Parti Quebecois, they are choosing confrontation with the rest of Canada," Mr Charest said.

In the last referendum, which was held in October 1995, the separatists lost their hope of declaring independence by a razor-thin majority of less than 1 per cent.

Leading article, page 21



Dominique Moceanu, 17, in hiding from her parents after being certified an adult



Dumitru and Camelia Moceanu. Their daughter claims they hit her to make her practise harder

Olympic athlete wins protection

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THERE was more family trouble yesterday for a "terrified" Dominique Moceanu, the American Olympic gymnast of 17 who "divorced" her parents in October.

At a new hearing, she won a protective court order against her father amid allegations that he attempted to employ someone to kill her coach and one of her male friends. Under the order, Dumitru Moceanu is forbidden from communicating with his daughter except through his lawyer.

Ms Moceanu alleged that her father was stalking her and had hired a private investigator to document all her moves "down to what I wear each day".

In a court affidavit she said: "I am terrified that my father will soon be successful in harming me or one of my

friends or associates. This threat of danger from my father hangs over me every day." Her father's lawyer said the allegations were false. A Houston police spokesman said that the department had investigated threats by "certain parties" in the Moceanu affair.

"I'm in fear," Ms Moceanu told USA Today from her hideout in a Houston hotel. She complained that her father and mother hit her when she was growing up because they said she was gaining weight or not doing well enough in the gym.

In October Ms Moceanu won the right to be declared an adult so that she could gain control over her finances. She alleged that her parents had squandered about \$1 million (£625,000) she had earned in her career.

Film studio makes a pig's ear out of Babe sequel

\$90m flop brings down the head of Universal Pictures, writes Giles Whittell in Los Angeles



Babe: stunned in urban jungle

HOLLYWOOD'S first animatronic pig was a worldwide hit as an aspiring sheepdog, but not as an explorer of the urban jungle. *Babe: Pig in the City*, has proved a disastrous flop.

The long-awaited sequel to the story of a humble swine who wants to change the world has collapsed at the US box office, bringing down Casey Silver, the head of Universal Studios' film division with it. Mr Silver, after a year of miserable ticket sales, was dismissed on Monday.

Released three Christmases ago, the original *Babe* was the "sleeper hit" of 1995. It took in nearly a quarter of a billion dollars worldwide and made history as the first film starring a farm animal to win an Oscar nomination for Best Picture.

Its sequel cost more than \$90 million (£54 million) but earned back less than a tenth of that during its crucial first four days.

Critics admitted *Pig in the City*'s visual effects and adult humour — at one point a moose pit bull terrier laments his innate evil as "a murderous shadow that lies hard across my soul". At another a trio of mice sings *Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien* under a silhouette of the Eiffel Tower.

But families stayed away in droves over the long Thanksgiving weekend, choosing frothier fare from Disney (*A Bug's Life*)

and Paramount (*The Rugrats Movie*), and ending hopes of a *Babe* film franchise like those enjoyed by *Superman* and *007*.

In a town as obsessed as ever with the bottom line, the flop doomed Mr Silver's tenure at the once-mighty Universal studio. His recent box office failures include *Primary Colors*, the Clinton-based film starring John Travolta and Emma Thompson, and the \$90 million Brad Pitt vehicle, *Meet Joe Black*. Both came to the screen with high hopes and expensive stars but neither is likely to turn a profit.

The 43-year-old Mr Silver's position was in doubt even before the weekend. The *Babe* sequel was not finished until a week before its release, forcing the studio to cancel press screenings and a two-day publicity blitz.

Universal thrived for 20 years on profits from Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment, which produced *ET*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and the Indiana Jones films and still has premises on the Universal site. Now Mr Spielberg has his own studio in DreamWorks, and Universal is second from bottom in the league table of studios' market share. In time-honoured Hollywood fashion Mr Silver will stay at the studio with a lucrative deal as an independent producer.



Silver: string of costly failures

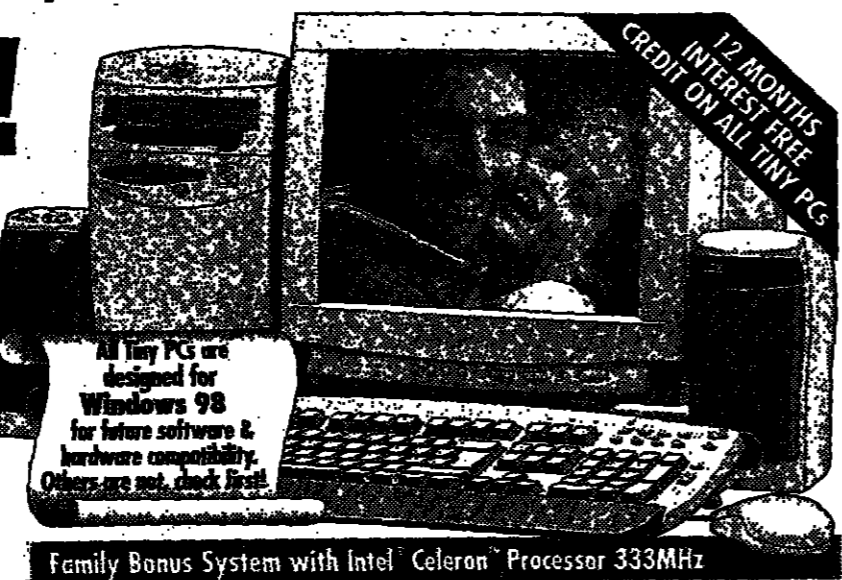
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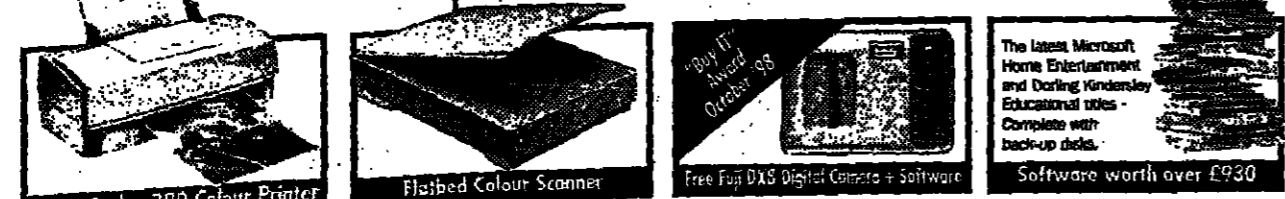


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A cure for cancer or just a good story?

Medical breakthroughs are not always as miraculous as they seem, says Anjana Ahuja

When one of the world's most respected newspapers splashed a story on its front page claiming a cure for cancer, people sat up and took notice. The story, about drugs that could banish tumours in mice, was full of ifs, buts and mightys — but the claimed breakthrough seemed to touch a particular nerve.

The story in *The New York Times*, coupled with effusive endorsements from two renowned scientists, had an immediate impact. Cancer patients all over America jammed phone lines trying to find out where they could lay their hands on these medical marvels. But the ramifications were also financial. On the day the story appeared, in May, shares in the biotechnology company involved in the research soared briefly to six times their price at the start of trading. The journalist who broke the exclusive, Gina Kolata, a long-serving science reporter for the newspaper and respected author, received a call from a very influential literary agent, John Brockman. He was confident of securing a \$2 million deal if she would write a book on the subject. Kolata duly dispatched an outline by e-mail the same day. Now, however, the saga of the miracle cancer cure has not ended as happily as it began; it joins a list of touted "breakthroughs" that have yet to fulfil the promises of front-page headlines.

The supposed cancer cure stemmed from the theory that cutting off the blood supply to a



Gina Kolata: surprised by reaction

tumour would kill it. Dr Judah Folkman, of the Children's Hospital in Boston, discovered a protein, angiostatin, that acted as a stopcock and thus deprived tumours in this way. He harvested the compound from mice and injected it into cancer-ridden mice each day for a fortnight. He also injected a control group of mice with saltwater over the same period. All ten mice given angiostatin had no tumours, unlike those dosed with saltwater.

Dr Folkman then discovered a second tumour-killing protein, endostatin. When he injected the two chemicals together, they proved a deadly double act. Endostatin did the groundwork, shrinking tumours; then angiostatin moved in for the kill, targeting the blood vessels feeding the tumours. Surviving

mice showed no side-effects of this combination, even when given four times the necessary dose. Provided they could collect enough of the two compounds to give to humans, there was every reason to be elated.

Word spread. Dr Richard Klausner, the director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Maryland, was quoted by Kolata as saying the research was "the single most exciting thing on the horizon" for the treatment of cancer. The article also featured the Nobel prize-winning co-discoverer of DNA, James Watson, heaping praise on Dr Folkman, saying he would rank alongside Darwin for his contribution to civilisation. After consulting with her editors, Kolata retracted her e-mail, citing a possible conflict of interest.

Both Dr Klausner and Dr Watson later issued statements claiming they had been misquoted (a correction regarding the former's comments was published in *The New York Times*). This month saw the latest twist. There were rumours that Dr Folkman's claims had not been widely reproduced in other laboratories. Aware of the implications for the biotech companies involved, *The Wall Street Journal* looked at how the trials were faring. It found that the NCI was so concerned that a panel of experts was being assembled to examine the issue. Then Dr Folkman agreed to meet representatives to demonstrate his technique. An NCI spokesman this week said the meeting was "imminent" and that therefore an expert panel was no longer needed.



Of mice and men: many writers would have been excited, despite the drugs being years away from human testing

When asked if laboratories had managed to repeat the results, he said: "There were problems with what was presented previously. The work is immature, but that is the way of drug development." A statement for the NCI is more forthcoming: "... to date, NCI studies using mouse or human forms of endostatin have not produced the marked regression of these tumours in mice that Folkman's laboratory has reported. Scientists from NCI and Folkman's laboratory are

working together to resolve the differences in their results." Another scientist, Gershtovich, revealed its scientists had tried for a year without success to replicate Dr Folkman's observations. But Dr Folkman, a well-respected scientist who has been touted as a future Nobel laureate and who also urged restraint on the issue of curing cancer in humans, has hit back at critics, saying: "The anti-tumour activity of endostatin has, in fact, been reproduced in other laboratories in

addition to ours." He names only one, the Beth Israel-Deaconess Hospital in Boston. In the same statement he also hints that failures may be due to insufficiently advanced techniques.

On the claims of misquoting Dr Klausner and Dr Watson, Kolata says she does not want to get into a dispute with them but stands by her story: "Of course I am surprised by the reaction to the story, but it stood up to incredible scrutiny. Nobody, when I wrote it, dis-

puted it. What I have written speaks for itself. And I wrote about mice, not humans."

Kolata has been criticised for overplaying the story but many science writers would have been just as excited, despite the drugs being years away from human testing. And it is likely that Dr Folkman's valuable efforts will eventually benefit cancer sufferers. In other cases, however, scientists themselves play up their research because publicity can help in getting grants. The result can sometimes be breakthroughs that fizzle out.

Hydrazine sulphate, a chemical found in rocket fuel and insecticides, was first tested on humans in the early 1970s. Several formal trials failed to show it worked, although some doctors said the drugs were administered in inappropriate doses and without strict controls. It still claims some fans, including Kathy Keeton, the wife of the *Penthouse* publisher Bob Guccione, who is a public advocate.

The publication of a 1992 book, *Sharks Don't Get Cancer*, caused ripples of excitement. The US Food and Drug Administration gave approval for clinical trials of treatments containing shark cartilage, a valid basis for a story. Although the tabloids have featured stories about sharks curing readers' cancers, the past six years have shown no concrete confirmation of the potency of this unusual material.

There are other developments which, although not written off, have been dismissed as rather fanciful. One such idea was promoted recently by astronomers at the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh. The fringes of outer space, they claimed, were peppered with hitherto unobserved black holes, the densest objects in the universe. They possibly held the key to one of the most enduring mysteries of modern science — that there ought to be more mass in the universe than has been observed. These new black holes must be the hiding place of the missing mass. An excited press conference and enormous publicity were followed by embarrassment as other astronomers queued to query the results, which some said had been interpreted inaccurately. The episode was traced back to an over-ambitious press release by the organisation that funded the research.

And who can forget cold fusion, where British scientists claimed they could conjure up vats of energy on a laboratory bench for almost nothing? A decade later, nobody has satisfactorily reproduced those startling results. Still, watch out for those fusion headlines again soon.

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One under the skin

HUMAN BEINGS, despite appearances, are remarkably similar under the skin. Africans, Asians and Europeans may look very different, but their genes tell another story. So why do we look so distinct? Stanley Ambrose, an anthropologist at the University of Illinois, thinks that he can explain the similarities and the differences by postulating a crisis that came close to wiping out the human race 70,000 years ago. With the help of volcanologists, he has even identified the event which caused the crisis: a huge eruption of Mount Toba in Sumatra.

The genetic similarity of today's human beings implies that we all originated from a relatively small gene pool. The amount of variation in mitochondrial DNA, which passes unchanged from mothers to children, suggests that the original pool of women cannot have been much greater than 10,000 at the start of the big expansion, 40,000 to 50,000 years ago, when stone tools were developed.

This very low population from which we all descend is difficult to reconcile with evidence that early man occupied large areas of Africa, Asia and Europe at that time. But the data do fit if one assumes that some time after modern humans left Africa 100,000 years ago, there was a crisis that reduced populations everywhere to very low levels. According to Henry Harpending, a Pennsylvania State University geneticist, this genetic "bottleneck" must have occurred between the exodus from Africa there, according to calculations by Michael Rampino, a New York University geologist, making it the largest volcanic eruption in the past 400 million years. Dr Rampino claims that the eruption caused a "volcanic winter" as ash blotted out the Sun, lowering temperatures by 2°C at high altitudes and killing 75 per cent of plants.

The effect on humans would have been devastating, especially if, as Dr Ambrose thinks, the six years of volcanic winter were followed by a 1,000-year ice age. Humans were used to a much balmy climate. "After 60,000 years of basking they were suddenly thrown into the freezer," he told *Discover*.

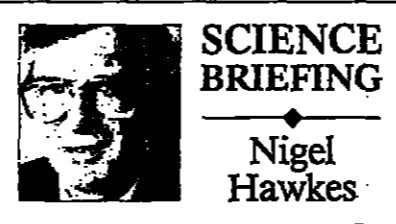
Huge numbers died, and only a few pockets, in Africa, Europe, and Asia, survived. Human life hung by a thread.

Then it began to recover, as the climate warmed once more. But the surviving populations were low, and genetic change always happens more quickly in small populations. This explains why there is the strong divergence and why, though we all probably came from Africa, we do not all look like Africans.

Dr Ambrose says that the event responsible was the eruption of Toba. A giant lake, 100km long by 30km wide, marks the spot where the greatest eruption of recent times took place. Geologists believe that about 2,800 cubic kilometres of material was produced in an eruption lasting at least two weeks. As much as 800 cubic kilometres of ash was hurled into the atmosphere.

of *Homo sapiens* and the emergence of stone tools.

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SCIENCE BRIEFING Nigel Hawkes

Yeast raises wine quality

AT A meeting in Vlerdingen in The Netherlands today, Dr Sylvie Degrain of the French National Institute for Agricultural Research in Montpellier will report on the construction of a yeast that produces more glycerol and less acetic acid in a wine. "Yeasts so altered may help to improve wine quality," she says. "Alongside alcohol, glycerol is the main by-product of fermentation, giving sweetness and fullness."

The scientists modified yeast, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, by boosting the gene responsible for producing the enzyme that determines the amount of glycerol and switching off the gene responsible for acetic acid. The new strains produce two to three times as much glycerol, and fermentation takes place more quickly, saving time and money. They should, Dr Degrain says, be welcome in colder areas, making a wine with greater body. Industrial strains are being produced, with large-scale testing needed to prove that they work.

Switched-on genes

AMERICAN researchers have implanted a gene into the brains of rats that can be turned on or off at will. The technique will be useful in developing treatments for diseases such as Parkinson's and epilepsy, they believe, and they also plan to use it to test new ways of controlling obesity.

Dr Richard Samulski of the University of North Carolina and colleagues used a virus rather like the one that causes the common cold to carry two genes into the rats' brains.

One was a switch, made up of genes from a virus and a bacterium, while the other was a "reporter" gene, which had no function except to show whether the switch was on or off.

Earlier research has shown that the switch can be turned off by the antibiotic tetracycline. When the rats were fed a diet containing the drug, the reporter gene only switched off otherwise, it remained on. Reporting in *Gene Therapy*, the team envisages the day when diseases are treated by genes whose precise performance can be controlled by antibiotics in the diet.

Whistling reveals which dolphin is which

BOTTLENOSE dolphins communicate by high-pitched whistles. But what exactly are they saying? Working it out is very difficult, not least because dolphins rarely give any outward sign that they are whistling, so in a group it is impossible to tell which is making the noise. This problem is avoided if only a single dolphin is present, but then it may not have a lot to say.

Two biologists from the University of St Andrews, Dr Vincent Janik and Dr Peter Slater, have studied a group of four dolphins at Duisburg Zoo in Germany. They were in two pools, connected by a narrow channel. They could choose to be in either pool at any time, which enabled the sounds they made when on their own in either pool, and separated from the rest to be identified with a particular dolphin.

In *Animal Behaviour* the biologists report that the dolphins, when isolated from the rest of the group, used "signature" whistles unique to them. But they never used these sounds when together. The conclusion is that these whistles are used to maintain the cohesion of the group. They are saying, in effect, "I'm over here". In the wild, similar behaviour would enable the group to hunt without losing touch.

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No Furbies. Will a mini Lamborghini do instead?

Wednesday: I have spent the past week on a mission impossible, trying to track down this year's hot toy — a Furby. It is a furry owl with bug eyes and technology so advanced that it can learn English — and has been so well-hyped that demand has swamped supply. The malls are swept with Furby fever. Last Thursday, in O'Fallon, Illinois, police arrested two women after they started biting each other in their efforts to secure the last one. Similar attacks were reported in Massachusetts and California, and eBay, the online auctioneer, has been flogging them for up to \$125 each, compared with the recommended price of \$30.

Thursday: Not prepared to resort to biting, I am nevertheless anxious to please a god-child in London who, though only five, is sufficiently street-wise to understand the added value of this year's essential present. So I ring round the various toy stores to reserve one.

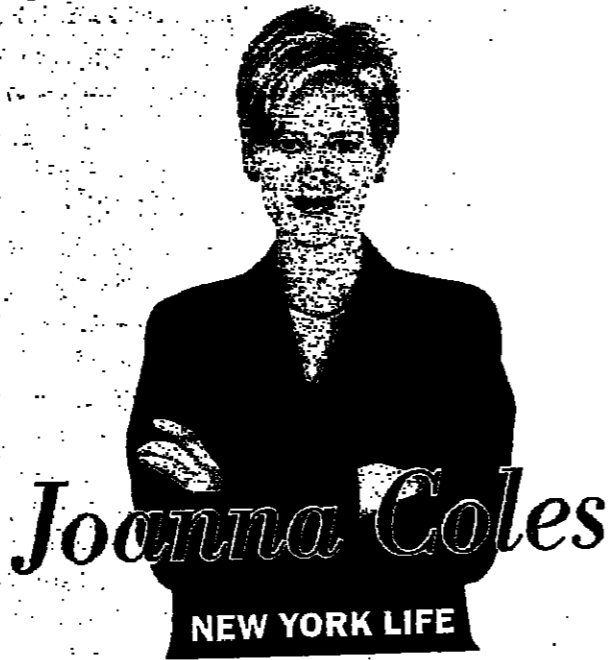
Friday: I make my 9am call to FAO Schwarz, only to find that it has no stock, so I try to buy a Furby online. Everyone, including EToys.com, the biggest online toyshop in the world, and shopnow.com, advertising Furbies for \$99 a piece in the hallowed pages of the latest *New Yorker*, have run out of the little blighters.

need to call the store every day at 9am. Furbies are usually sold out within 90 minutes. Sales are restricted to one Furby per customer. Thank you for calling."

Next I ring A Bear's Place on Lexington Avenue. "Fluggedaboutit," says the receptionist. "You're only going to get aggravation. Just enjoy your day." I get the same advice from another half-dozen stores, all of which refuse to accept advance orders.

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Saturday: I am now so intrigued by this little toy that has sparked such mania that I have arranged to see Michelle Prince, the media relations manager for FAO Schwarz, who promises to help to unravel the Furby's



Joanna Coles
NEW YORK LIFE

hold on America's savvy consumers. It is the day after Black Friday, the busiest shopping day of the year, so called because merchants perennially hope it will pull them out of the red. Some 75,000 people wandered through the shop yesterday, and today's queue,

marshalled by security guards dressed as toy soldiers in white trousers, red jackets and black top hats, is already 200 yards long, trammelled obediently between velvet ropes down 8th Street. "There's always one toy that captures the heart of Ameri-

ca," says Michelle brightly. "Nobody can get enough of Furby! When we started selling them in October we sold 4,000 in six hours."

"But why Furby?"

"It's cutting-edge technology," she says.

"But lots of toys are interactive these days, why the hysteria about this one?"

"It's affordable. It speaks, it sings, it interacts with other Furbies, it learns English, it does everything," she says happily. "It's just incredible. It's an interactive animatronic pet!"

"In here dreams come true," says Michelle earnestly, pointing out that not only are the teddy bears made by Steiff, they are jointed.

Then there's the original RZDZ robot from the *Star Wars* set (\$7,200), a doll called Gene with a magnificent net cloak laced with real diamonds, emeralds and rubies (\$25,000), and behind me, a mini Range Rover, "the ulti-

mate child-sized 4x4", price tag \$18,750. "I know someone, a celebrity, who bought two of them a few weeks ago," says Michelle.

"Oh, who?" I beg. "I can't share that with you," she smiles discreetly. At that moment Sigourney Weaver walks in. "She's collecting something for her daughter," mouths Michelle.

"What did she buy?" I ask, after the actress disappears. "I don't know. We have a lot of celebrity consumers and we like to preserve their privacy."

Though the Range Rover is the ultimate miniature 4x4, it is not the ultimate child's car. Nor is it even the most expensive in the store. That accolade goes to the white Lamborghini, maximum speed 17mph. Cost? \$40,000.

"With some people the sky's the limit," says Julia Minto, a personal shopping adviser who has sold several juvenile Lamborghinis and was shepherding a "celebrity client" around the store at 7am, two hours before the public was allowed in. "For Christmas and birthdays, parents like to indulge."

"I love this castle bedset," interrupts Michelle, stroking a series of 6ft creamy rumparts that form a bedroom set. "It costs \$40,000 and your child feels as if it's living in a real castle!"

FAO Schwarz embraced this luxury market earlier this year when it published its first Ultimate Toy Catalogue, mailed out in a smart red case to 200,000 of its top customers. In addition to the store's most expensive toys, the catalogue also includes "The Six Ultimate Experiences":

Ultimate Experience No 1, "Travel to the Birthplace of the Teddy Bear," costs \$10,000. The store flies you to the Steiff factory in Germany, where you will "dine with a senior Steiff executive" and be presented with a special-edition Steiff bear.

Other ultimate experiences include designing your own Barbie, complete with choice of hair and eye colour (\$20,000); designing your own teddy bear at the Gund factory in New Jersey (\$10,000) or flying to the Paris Opera, where you will be presented with a Ken and Barbie

Phantom of the Opera set (\$9,500).

The final Ultimate Experience is what "gift fantasies are made of. Your child and 14 favourite friends will have the time of their lives when they spend the night at FAO Schwarz surrounded by the most magical collection of toys anywhere." Included in the price is a novelty sleeping bag for each child and a \$100 gift certificate. Yours for \$17,500.

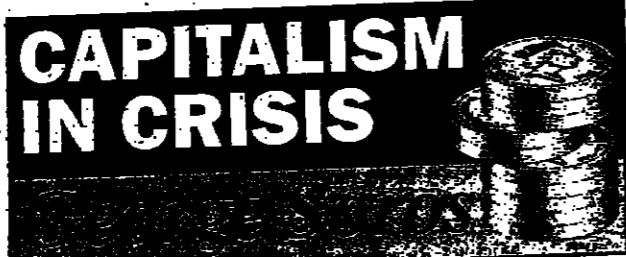
As I head out through Personal Shopping I finally spot a Furby sitting on the desk.

"Hello!" it chirrups, responding to my movement. "Hello, Furby," I reply, whereupon it starts moving its ears. I sit down and start writing and it responds again, this time to the motion of my pen.

"La la la la," it sings, rolling its eyes and breaking into an incomprehensible chatter. I consider snatching it and slipping it surreptitiously into my getaway might be jeopardised by the fact that a Furby never shuts up. My godchild might have to make do with a different present this year.

Morals are bound to lose out to market forces

The problem in discussing the relationship between market values and social values is not in establishing that there is a difference between the two; it is in discussing the content and character of social values. Market fundamentalists try to disregard social values by arguing that whatever those values are they find expression in market behaviour.



In the final extract from his book, *The Crisis of Global Capitalism*, the financier looks at the market and social values — and why financial players recognise no moral imperative

PART THREE

ment was valid only for the financial markets. If I had to deal with people, I could not have avoided moral choices and I could not have been so successful in making money. I blessed the luck that led me to the financial markets and allowed me not to dirty my hands. Anonymous market participants are largely exempt from moral choices as long as they play by the rules. In this sense, financial markets are not immoral; they are amoral. This characteristic makes it more important that the rules that govern markets should be properly formulated. The anonymous market participant can ignore moral, political, and social considerations, but if we look at financial markets from the standpoint of society we cannot leave such considerations out of account. As we have seen, financial markets can act as a wrecking ball knocking over economies.

I bless the luck that led me not to have to dirty my hands

Although we are justified in playing by the rules, we ought also to be concerned with the rules by which we play. Rules are made by the authorities, but in a democratic society the authorities are chosen by the players. Collective action can also be brought to bear more directly. For instance, the boycott of South African investments turned out to be successful in promoting a change of regime. But this case was an exception, because it involved collective action. Normally social values do not find expression in the market behaviour of individual participants and need to find some other form of expression.

THE UNITED NATIONS There have been many studies and proposals for reforming the UN but none has come

to pass. The only way changes could come about is through the pressure of public opinion. We need a worldwide alliance of democratic countries that co-operates in promoting the principles of open society.

They could establish standards for the relationship between state and society that would cover such areas as freedom of information, freedom of association, due process, transparency in state procurement, and the like. Members of the alliance would pledge themselves to abide by those standards.

The alliance would admit candidate members who do not meet those standards at present but subscribe to them as a goal. It is important to understand what the UN can and cannot do. It is flawed, like every human construct, but it has great potential. Its major components are: the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Secretariat, and a number of specialized agencies such as the UN Development Program (UNDP), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) — only a few functions effectively.

Appointments are made on the basis of national patronage and not on merit. It is difficult to fire officials and more difficult to wind up organisations when they no longer have a mission. Bureaucracies are always more interested in self-preservation than in carrying out their mission. When a bureaucracy is responsible to the entire membership of the UN it is beyond control. It must be recognised that an association of states, each guided by its own interests, is ill-suited to carry out any executive functions in service of the common good. Executive functions

ought to be entrusted to appointed officials who are held responsible for their actions.

The Security Council is a structure and it could be effective in imposing peace if the permanent members agreed among themselves. The end of the Cold War provided an opportunity for the Security Council to function as it was designed but, in the case of Bosnia, it was the three Western members, the US, Britain and France, who could not agree among themselves. The creation of an open society coalition ought to prevent a recurrence of that sorry spectacle.

An assembly of sovereign states may be ill-suited to carry out executive functions but it is eminently qualified to serve as a qualified majority by a qualified majority. What would qualify as a majority would have to be carefully defined. There could be a triple test, namely two thirds of the countries, two thirds of the population, and two thirds of the UN budget.

Countries that do not abide by their commitment to accept the decision of a majority would be excluded from the coalition. In that way, a body of international law could be developed without infringing on the principle of national sovereignty. The General Assembly could decide what laws are needed and how to enforce them. What makes the idea of an open society coalition realistic is that democratic governments are responsive to the demands of their citizens. But first people must subscribe to the idea of open society.

Extracted from *The Crisis of Global Capitalism* by George Soros, published by Little, Brown (RRP £17.99). Readers of *The Times* can buy it for £14.99 by calling *The Times* bookshop on 0900 134 459. Limited tickets available at £7.50/£5 (concessions) for live video-link of George Soros debate in an adjacent hall at 7pm next Monday at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. Tel: 0171-467 1613.

We need an alliance of nations to promote an open society



George Soros: "Financial markets have such a large number of participants no single participant can have an appreciable effect on the outcome"

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Weaning Washington off its Mayor

Bronwen Maddox says it took too long to kick the Barry habit

Next month brings the formal end to the four-term reign of Marion Barry as Mayor of Washington DC. The disgrace is that it took so long.

You remember the video, at his trial in 1990. Mr Barry, one of the highest elected black officials in the United States, sat crouched in Room 727 of the Vista Hotel, expertly wielding a crack cocaine pipe. He inhales deeply and flirts with Rasheeda Moore, his long-time mistress. FBI agents crash through the door as the Mayor yells "the bitch set me up".

Cut to the gleaming new arena in the city centre, a few days before the November 3 elections. At a black-tie gala to pay tribute to Mr Barry's 24 years in Washington politics, the poet Maya Angelou, one of the hosts, praised him for "daring to go places that no person has gone before". The 10,000-strong crowd broke into a chant of "Marion Barry, you are my hero, yesterday, today and tomorrow".

Mr Barry hated the police, and set about dismantling the department, previously one of the country's best. When the head of the DC intelligence unit tried to build a case against him for using drugs at a strip-joint called "This Is It", the Washington Mayor demoted him to night supervisor.

So why did his support stay so high? He was no slouch at machine politics, weaving in new strands as others unravelling. He improved garbage collection in poor black neighbourhoods. He wooed the powerful ministers of the black churches with special clergy licence plates. In 1986, he used the lure of municipal bonds to persuade Wall Street to throw money at his reelection. But above all, many were determined to see him as a victim of persecution, targeted out of proportion to his sins because he was a powerful black man.

Marion Barry was a crook and a disaster

Bill Clinton should take lessons. Mr Barry deserves to be called America's most resilient politician, elected four times since 1978, once since his six-month spell in jail for drug use. This year, he finished his political career by ousting himself. He may, he has let it be known, accept a professorship in urban studies.

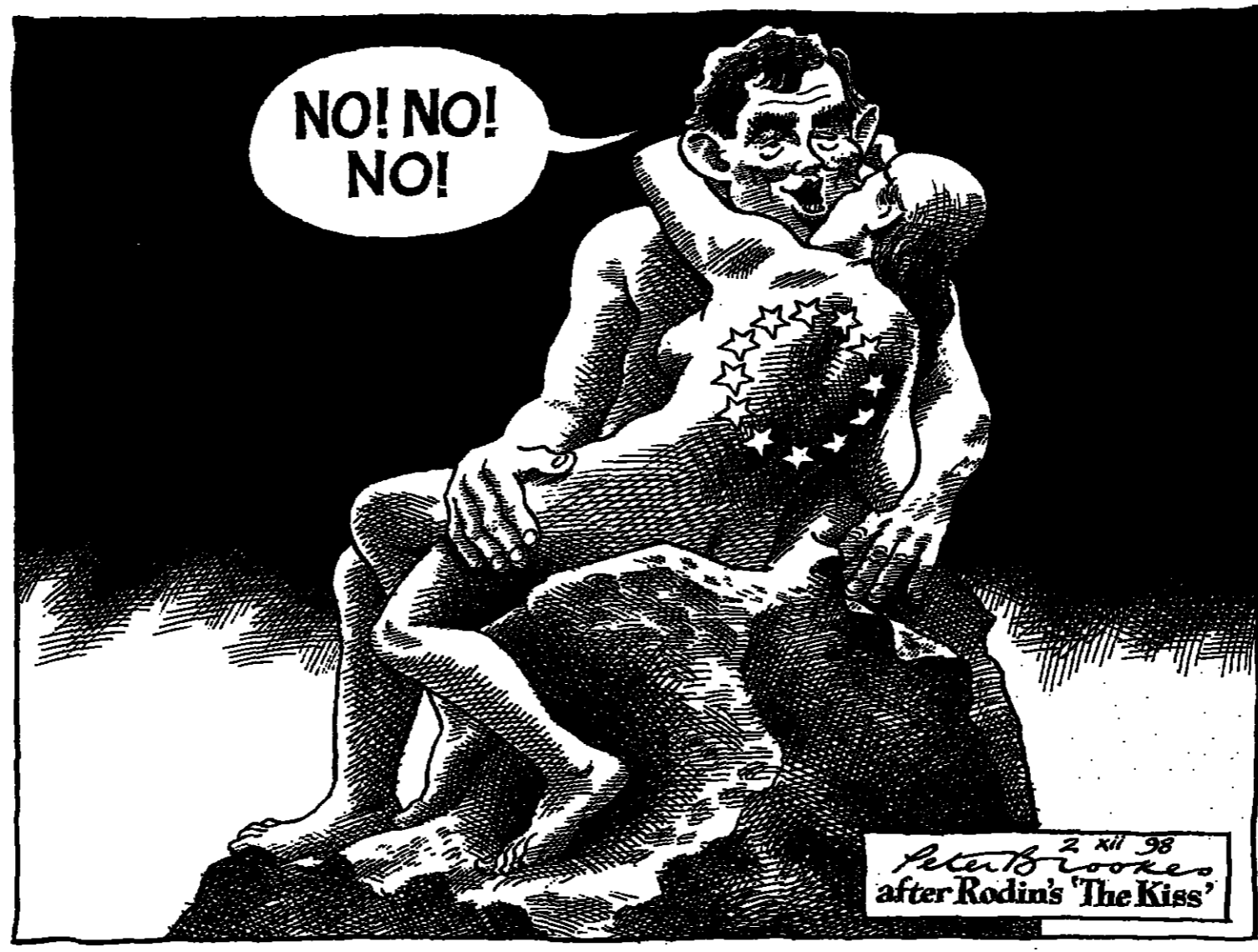
America will be the better for his absence. It may now have a capital city where the police do not routinely "lose" drugs and guns seized as evidence, where TB does not spread through primary schools, and where swarming rats do not stop the traffic.

His successor, Anthony Williams, derided by Mr Barry's clan as an Establishment "Ivy League black", has worked miracles in the past year as the city's Congress-appointed financial manager. Mr Williams, elected with a landslide and inaugurated next month, declared on Saturday that "the party's over". He said this week: "Everyone appointed to a board or commission during the final days of the Barry administration — including the Mayor — please resign."

Mr Barry's exit means that the willful self-delusion which kept him in power for three decades, fed by white guilt and black bitterness, may now be lifting. Mr Barry played to fears that if he fell, so would the entire project of racial harmony. But it would do only good for race relations to say bluntly that Mr Barry was a crook and a disaster.

To understand how he rose, you have to think back to the idealism of the mid-1960s, to the Kennedy White House, the War on Poverty, and to Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. Mr Barry was a natural-born hero for those times; son of a Mississippi Delta sharecropper, he became a star of the civil rights movement.

It was the 1968 riots after Martin Luther King's assassination that elevated Mr Barry to the status of saviour. As smoke drifted into the Oval Office from the burning city,



Blunkett's empty tables

Education statistics serve ministers, rather than parents, pupils and schools

After Guy Fawkes, Halloween and the Dance of Death comes the Feast of St Volvo. It is school league-table time. Whitehall officials put on skeleton suits and ghoulish masks and run down the pavement shouting, "Name-'em-and-shame-'em". The control freaks emerge from their cells and choose the poorest schools in the land to burn at the stake. Yesterday the Grand Wizard, David Blunkett, tossed a dozen statistics into the breeze and intoned that Middleton Park School, Leeds, was the "worst in the country". It was dragged screaming to the pyre in front of a salivating media.

League-table Day is the annual festival of middle-class prejudice. For 24 hours, under government approval, political correctness and left-wing dogma can be abandoned. The Department of Education announces to the world that Britain's poor, working-class, welfare dependants, scrongers and ill-plus failures are indeed just plain stupid. Yesterday it declared Hull as this year's "worst" area in England for dimness. Knowsley, Islington, Middlesbrough, Hackney are scarcely less illiterate, innumerate and infested with truants who cannot even get a C at GCSE. Compare, says Mr Blunkett, glorious Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Barnet, Bromley, where people work hard, live clean and pass their exams. Buckinghamshire was yesterday's "best" area. It is all official, in the facts. The working-class is down there for a reason: it is dumb.

Yesterday's league tables, purporting to rate every secondary school from best to worst, were even more chaotic than last year's. Unofficial tables drawn from the same results appeared last August, but were completely different, as they were based on GCSE grades per candidate rather than per 15-year-old. The path from those tables to the ones published yesterday requires a mastery of differential calculus, the Planck constant, the Heisenberg uncertainty principle and a Downing Street focus group.

For the media and politicians, the league tables are a one-day wonder. For a school they can be devastating. Since their introduction in 1992, the GCSE tables disregarded anything below a C grade. This inclined schools to "write off" dud pupils. Likewise the A-level tables, by concentrating on higher grades, discouraged

professions assess themselves by peer group, inspection and institutional leadership, only partly by quantification. They rely on the trust of their clients and on local accountability.

School league tables began as a newspaper service for independent school parents, to supplement more general assessments. They were set up by Tory ministers, largely to show that selective schools were "better" than unselective schools nationwide. They were then seized on by a different lobby, the centralising tendency within the Education Department. They are now considered a key performance indicator for grant payment and, so rumour has it, for the new teaching contracts due out tomorrow. This is a reversion to Victorian payment by results.

The effect of league tables on education has been real, if hard to judge. Many bad teachers have been rooted out, and probably some good but unconventional ones too. Out-of-school activity has suffered, sport devastatingly so. Attention to remedial and backward children has diminished. Bureaucracy from Whitehall has soared. On the whole, good schools have done better in exams and more schools have done better overall. But the sink schools, habitat of Britain's worst social problems, do not appear to have improved. The persistent disease of British education survives, an obsession with the top third at the expense of the bottom third.

League tables may exert a near pornographic fascination over central government. Yet parents do not need to know whether the school to which their children will probably go is three percentage points above or below one hundred miles away. They want to see the inspectors' report and compare other schools in the neighbourhood. All else is bumble-don. A table that tells them that selective schools get better results than non-selective ones is poorer. So is a table announcing that poor areas do worse than rich ones, and that Sutton is "better" than Handsworth.

Such statistics boast the easily boasted, humiliate the easily humiliated, insult a profession and bring public administration into disrepute. I wonder if Mr Blunkett would ever risk a league table of his own new-burgeoning army of officials. Fat chance.

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Mr Blunkett promptly caved in and suppressed the table. The existing crude table stood and the value-added table was relegated to a single tick against 800 schools considered to have made "good progress". Such is the feature of any centralised service: politics always wins. Ministers can publish league tables that may be unfair to the stupid and the poor. They will not publish tables unfair to the clever and the rich. Mr Blunkett must be mopping his brow. He has escaped a nasty brush with socialism.

Science knows the phenomenon that the more closely we try to measure one strand in a complex reaction, such as teaching, the more we distort other strands and may in turn distort the original measurement. Teaching was, until ten years ago, a profession sorely in need of oversight. But professional oversight does not require a league table. We do not measure GPs by whether their patients recover or die. We do not measure lawyers by how many clients they convict or release. Such

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spread was seen as her first solo step in an attempt to win high office. What can Jay be up to?

THE chairs from Westminster Abbey being floored to Americans for £3,000 each did not provide seating during many of the historic events which they are claimed to have witnessed.

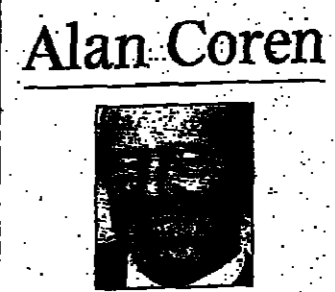
Few Corner, the furniture company selling the beech and elm chairs, claims they were in the abbey during the coronations of George VI and the Queen, and for the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill. But, although the chairs have

been in use since the beginning of the century, smarter chairs were put into the abbey for the 1937 and 1953 ceremonies. Many of these seats were bought by peers at the time. Sir Winston's funeral was not at the abbey, but at St Paul's.

THE British Housewives League is the latest to join the fight against the single currency. It was big in the 1950s when it protested that idle men-folk went on too many strikes. "It is now mobilising against creeping Europhilic tendencies in the Women's Institute," I am told. They will join protesters from the Bakers' Union to Lord Hanson's Business for Sterling at Church House this month. Frank Field, the former minister, is expected to make a high-profile speech following his recent decision to come out as a Eurosceptic.

THE proprietor of O Dia in Rio can expect a late-night call from Peter Mandelson. Brazil's daily has investigated the Trade Secretary's trip: its conclusion? "Mandelson has turned into a joke in Great Britain." (But don't worry Peter, it clears you of any naughtiness.)

HEATHER MILLS (right) is taking up the crusade to dumb up television. The model is tearing up with Esther Rantzen to challenge Jonathan Dimbleby's hold on Sunday lunch-time viewers. "We have a new series starting in January," she says. "It will be on once a month instead of Dimbleby. The theme will be of people who



Smoking in public — a really wide thing to do

I came out, yesterday. I came out in homage to Oscar Wilde. A bit of a surprise, that, not least to me: it had never been my plan to come out yesterday. Tuesday is the day I stay in and write this, but I could not have written this unless I had first come out — from which you will gather that I have not only come out, but also come back. Why did I suddenly decide to come out? Because I had seen, on Monday evening's news, the unveiling of Maggi Hambling's delightful statue of Oscar, and immediately realised that I would have to come out first thing next morning to make sure my eyes, during that brief television clip, had not deceived me. So, a couple of hours ago, I came out, eyes included, to the fresh-hallowed spot behind Trafalgar Square, and joyfully confirmed that they had not.

Oscar was actually doing it. He was doing it out there, in full public view, at the busy bottom of Adelaide Street. Oscar was engaging in the love that dare not speak its name, not furtively, as I and those like me, a century on, engage in it, not shamefacedly, not mutely begging society's sympathy for a vice impossible to restrain, but flagrantly, reishiingly, defiantly. Oscar was smoking. More yet, he was flourishing his cigarette as if it were the most natural thing in the world. And, most yet, he will be doing this for as long as bronze and granite last.

I punched the air. I cried: "Yes! And I came out. Which is to say I lit up as I never light up, these days, except behind closed doors and in the company of consenting adults — flourishing the pack, snapping the Zippo, sucking deep, exhaling far, yielding, for once, no quarter to the terrified shrieks and fisted threats of the ambient passive, but instead beckoning to the liberal outcasts pitifully lurking in the chilly huddled doorways of their smoke-free workplaces to come out with me and strut their stuff upon the public street. Tobacco Pride.

A big day for me, then. Did a tear prick the eye, and was it more than windblown ash? You bet. For you who are not as we are cannot possibly imagine how it feels to be set apart, to walk, smoking, into a crowded room and dock the swivelling eyes, sense the dropped temperature, catch the smug tutting and the outraged flare of all those nostrils preening themselves on their self-conferred normality; or how it is to have a host approach, smiling awkwardly, take your elbow, lead you to a secluded corner and gently but firmly explain that, while he has nothing against smokers personally, while some of his best friends are smokers, while he is a man of the world, it isn't just writers and actors and artists and other bohemian types who are tragically prey to this, indulgence, but some of the most eminent people in the land, bishops, bankers, headmasters, general practitioners, Cabinet ministers, members of the Royal Family, even, nevertheless...

I'm not sure, mind, whether rejection by the overly hostile isn't preferable to the bogus caring of the fascinated prurient: "I hear you're a smoker. I don't think I've ever met one who actually talk to, how did it start, was it some older boy behind the bike shed, did you get into conversation with a man on a cigarette, were you perhaps in the navy; could you ever bring yourself to tell your parents, don't you worry about catching some dreadful disease, I mean some people would say, I mean necessarily, that it's a forgivable, dirty and disgusting practice, wouldn't they, but do you think perhaps that smoking itself mightn't be a kind of illness, couldn't you be cured if you found the right person, not that I would argue that it was, well, natural, if God had willed people to smoke, he would have put chimney-pots on our heads, wouldn't he, ha ha ha, no offence, I trust..."

So, how, you ask, do I respond to all this? I do not respond at all. I just sit there, suffering in my enforced smokelessness, gazing past my interrogator at the window on to that outside world into which I dream of soon escaping, for a frag, you never saw a man who looked with such a wistful eye upon that little tent of blue which smokers call the sky.

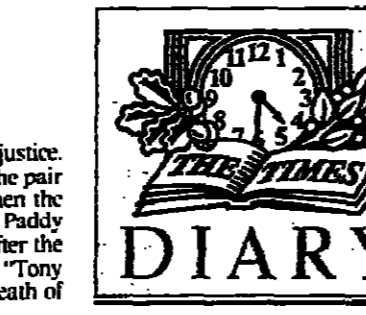
Flight flap

TONY BLAIR and Paddy Ashdown are fugitives from Russian justice. The Liberal Democrat leader has related the bizarre tale of how the pair were arrested for being illegal immigrants by Siberian police when the Prime Minister insisted on making an unscheduled walkabout. Paddy and Tony were bonding on a joint flight back from Hong Kong after the handover to China, when the PM's VC10 touched down in Siberia. "Tony and I decided to go outside and stretch our legs and take in a breath of fresh air," recalls Paddy. "But as soon as our feet touched Siberian soil we were arrested by the police for being illegal immigrants."

After failing to produce visas, furious discussions followed with the commissar, who was blissfully ignorant of the value of his catch. The duo were freed, but only after a ring had been drawn around the plane, creating a temporary island of immunity and allowing them to walk freely inside.

Ashdown recounted the tale when a student at Yeovil College asked him how much influence he has with Blair. Too much, during this trip — it was while the plane negotiated a tropical storm over China that Paddy bounced Tony into accepting the "closed list" system which is causing the Government so much grief.

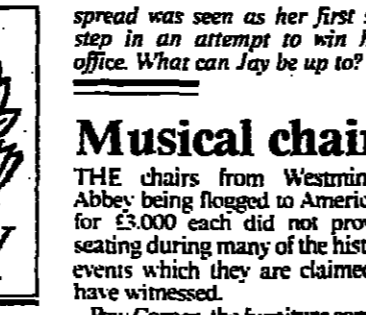
THAT racy poet Fiona Pitt-Kethley has discovered abstinence. "I'll



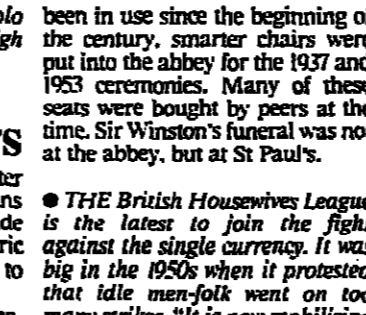
ing details of his affair with a neighbour by threatening to resign on air during the World Cup.

The housewives' favourite was asked to reveal his fling with Laura Ewing as our boys banished away in France. Lynam, already in a long-term relationship with the delightful Rose Diamond (right), told the reporter that if he pursued the story, the TV anchorman would announce that he was being hounded and could not continue. The paper, wisely, stepped back from publishing. Lynam's ploy worked only briefly; another tabloid ran it after the World Cup.

FOLLOWING Hillary Clinton, Baroness Jay of Paddington is to disclose what a swell she is by appearing in Vogue. A feature writer from the magazine has been shadowing the Leader of the Lords while she terrifies aristos. Hillary's



settling down, marry, tend my allotment, have a baby and lead a sober life," says the Private Parts writer who has called herself a female Casanova. Her suggested epitaph? "The sex is in heaven ... I'm coming back boys." Fiona's next work? Red-light districts. Not a complete volte-face, then.



have overcome the odds. Perhaps through mounting a campaign or some personal challenge. I hope it will be inspirational." Heather is suited to the task, having obtained TV super-stardom with one leg.

THE proprietor of O Dia in Rio can expect a late-night call from Peter Mandelson. Brazil's daily has investigated the Trade Secretary's trip: its conclusion? "Mandelson has turned into a joke in Great Britain." (But don't worry Peter, it clears you of any naughtiness.)



THE Times' laureate will be chosen in a special election. The voters' traditional preference is for a more traditional laureate, but the Times' laureate will be chosen in a special election. The voters' traditional preference is for a more traditional laureate, but the Times' laureate will be chosen in a special election.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2 1998

BROWN'S

EU wide taxes are...

Quebec

Bouchard has...

CHOOS

The Times appears...



BROWN'S BURNING DECK

EU-wide taxes are not a matter for 'constructive negotiation'

The mills of Brussels grind slow, but fine. Driven by Germany and France, the EU is now at work eliminating the differences between national tax regimes. Gordon Brown's awkward rendition of "the boy stood on the burning deck" alters neither that fact, nor the reality that the British Government is an active participant in this process. The Chancellor's performance on the Today programme yesterday was the least convincing of his ministerial career.

Mr Brown repeated his pledge to veto a compulsory withholding tax on savings. But in Brussels, British officials are emphasising that their realistic aim is to secure an exemption for the Eurobond market. The Government's promise to "negotiate constructively" suggests that it is desperate to avoid using the veto. Once the non-negotiable has become negotiable, and the argument changes from principle to fine print, the history of Brussels negotiations is not encouraging. A compromise may purchase the City a temporary opt-out, in return for a long-term British commitment to an EU-wide regime on this matter of common interest. Thus was VAT imposed on the British fine art market, resulting in the flight of business to Geneva and New York.

Throughout the continent an attack on "unfair" competition is looming: the 11 Euro-countries are terrified that a single currency and exchange rate will make the market more transparent and sharpen price competition. The Chancellor has not explained how Britain's opposition to "tax harmonisation", which he insists is "not the way forward for Europe", is to be reconciled with his support for "fair tax competition". For most of Britain's EU partners there is virtually no difference. When tax policy is used to disguise state subsidies, it can be genuinely market-distorting. But with some narrow and easily identified exceptions, such as the Irish, Dutch and Belgian tax treatment of foreign investors, who currently pay less than domestic competitors, one man's "harmful and discriminatory tax competition" is another's attractively flexible marketplace.

The cardinal principle is that a country's freedom to decide what to tax, and how much, is the bedrock of national sovereignty. Yesterday, Mr Brown struck the right note when he said that "what we want is tax competition, not tax co-operation". Yet he had just given a favourable wind to a plan to scrap 85 tax incentive schemes, including enterprise zones, regional incentives and the regime created to help small and medium businesses in Ulster.

This results from Britain's agreement, a year ago, to set up a working group —

chaired by Dawn Primarolo, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury — to produce an EU Code of Conduct on taxation, was given the sweeping remit of working towards "eliminating tax differences as a factor in investment decisions". At the time, the Government claimed to be happy with this because the code would be voluntary. How many times, in EU negotiations, has that been heard before? Ministers dismiss as "scaremongering" the concerns about the European Commission's avowed aim of harmonising VAT and corporate taxation. Yet all Mr Brown had to say on this score yesterday was that on both, "there is no detailed proposal at the moment".

Neither a single market nor a single currency justifies EU-wide rules either on what is taxed, or how much is levied. In the US, both cities and states not only exercise a high degree of fiscal independence but actively use fiscal policy to compete for investment. Tax harmonisation, by whatever name, is not only rightly unpopular in Britain; it is also bad economics for the entire EU. So in their own terms, France and Germany are being stupid.

But since bad economics is what both France and the new German Government are bent on — most governments expect a European tax package to be in place by next June — there is only one British policy that makes sense. That is to accept their persistence in folly, on the absolute condition that Britain will have no part in it. If the 11 Euro-countries want to go ahead, Britain should allow them to do so — provided it has a cast-iron, permanent, opt-out, and without giving one inch to the demand, by Oskar Lafontaine with French support, that tax in future be subject to qualified majority votes.

Such a policy would restore certainty and clarity to the whole debate. Nothing less should reassure the British public. A very high hurdle would then be set to British membership of EMU; for it would be clear that loss of fiscal sovereignty is part of the price. That is what prompts the Government to attempt the fudge of "constructive negotiation". This is also what gives the British debate on EMU a welcome clarity. Yesterday Mr Brown abruptly reversed his track on duty-free sales on the curious ground that the German and French positions had changed. This was a patent diversionary tactic to grab headlines.

Britain must uncompromisingly insist that it is competition which is fair, to those whose jobs depend on dynamic economies. There is no other interpretation of the national interest. If Britain cannot win the argument, it can refuse to join the lemmings heading over the cliff.

QUEBEC AND CANADA

Bouchard has no mandate for independence

The solid victory by the secessionist Parti Québécois in the Province's general election is a personal triumph for Lucien Bouchard, the former federal minister who took over the embattled party's leadership in the wake of the bitter fall-out from the failed referendum on independence in 1995. The PQ won 75 of the 125 seats in the provincial assembly, an impressive majority and one that testifies to his personal popularity as well as his belated efforts to set Quebec's financial house in order.

But the victory is by no means the landslide his supporters had hoped, and leaves a bitter taste in the mouths of those ready to proclaim the immediate holding of a new referendum on separation from Canada. For though the Quebec Liberal Party, campaigning against independence, won only 48 seats, it actually won a higher proportion of the vote — 44 per cent compared with 43 per cent for the PQ. This not only highlights the division between urban-based anglophones, who overwhelmingly rejected independence, and the French-speakers scattered in rural constituencies; but it undermines the PQ's claim that the election was an endorsement of its push for sovereignty.

Mr Bouchard now faces a dilemma. He cannot afford another failed referendum. He would be better advised to wait until he is assured of victory before going to the polls. The risk here, however, is not just the disappointment of the party faithful. Time is not necessarily on the separatists' side. The federal Government has made enormous efforts to woo Quebec, even after the failure of the Meech Lake accords that would have given the province special status. Ottawa is sensitive to the demands of French-speakers to be considered a "distinct society". Much has been done to ensure equality for French within official Canada, and the federal government, dropping the policy of threats and bluster, has gone out of its way to assure Quebec that all Canada would be the poorer if this vibrant province were to secede.

The message carries weight. Little by little Quebecers may be persuaded that the fight for "sovereignty" is hardly worth the bitterness it occasions. The polls show that support for independence is falling. Mr Bouchard is an astute and popular leader. He should use his victory to ensure that Quebec's pragmatic relationship with Ottawa yields benefits for all Canada.

CHOOSE A CHARITY

The Times appeals for three causes on three continents

Today, *The Times* launches its Christmas appeal for three specific causes which, we hope, will each in its own way encourage our readers' traditional generosity. One will provide immediate assistance for those Hondurans who have suffered from nature's fury in Hurricane Mitch. Another will help to protect African cheetahs from disappearing from the wild. The third will help a British team to identify the causes of Alzheimer's disease.

On the surface these projects appear to have little in common. Yet, taken together, they reflect the immense benefits charitable donations can deliver in the next few weeks, years and decades.

A month after Hurricane Mitch ripped through Honduras, hundreds of thousands of people are still stranded in the sands of the loss of 98 bridges makes it difficult to distribute food to 600,000 country, to rebuild one of those bridges people. Re-building one of those bridges will help aid reach those in need, and allow farmers to take their produce to market.

While Honduras's plight has been widely reported, the threat facing cheetahs of the Serengeti National Park has not. Few would think that this majestic animal could soon be an endangered species. Unable to compete against a thriving population of hyenas and lions their survival is threatened. Only one out of every 20 cubs born survives beyond 18 months. A greater understanding of how cheetahs live will help classify the best areas and means of conservation.

The plight of the Hondurans is known and talked about, the threat facing Africa's cheetahs less so. Yet, for years, Alzheimer's disease has been a taboo subject. The revelations that Iris Murdoch and Ronald Reagan have fallen victim to the disease awakened the public's awareness, but did little to raise financial support. Without identifying who is most at risk from developing Alzheimer's and what they might do to prevent dementia, on current trends one million people might have the disease by 2021. Hence we ask support for the Alzheimer's Research Trust.

Charities often describe themselves as "deserving" causes. To be deserving, a charity must show that it is helping to alleviate or prevent suffering in practical ways, and perform a benevolent act which otherwise might go undone. These are three charities that meet that standard. Please choose one and give what you can.

Parlous state of London schools

From Mr E. M. Guyver

Sir, It is refreshingly honest of Mary Ann Sieghart ("The shame of London's schools", November 27) to admit that low standards of state secondary schooling are mainly a city phenomenon, worst in London. Every state school in the country has had to endure a decade or more of sledgehammer reforms aimed at the cost-cutting difficulties of the capital, but which are an overkill for peanut-sized problems elsewhere.

The "educational apartheid" in London surely derives more from policy failures than from bad teaching. Secondary schools there have been the principal casualty in the ideological war between left-wing metropolitan councils and right-wing national governments for 22 of the past 28 years.

London demonstrates the urgent need to remove education from the incompetent and divisive grasp of politicians. We would be better served by a royal commission of non-political experts to determine a uniform policy framework for the state system — and then stick to it.

Yours faithfully,
TED GUYVER,
41 Meon Road,
Mickleton, Chipping Campden,
Gloucestershire GL55 6TB,
November 28.

From Mr Allen Heaton Page

Sir, I read Mary Ann Sieghart's commentary on the shame of London's schools with a depressing sense of déjà vu.

In the early Seventies I was the last headmaster of a South London grammar school, and for some years thereafter the head of the large comprehensive which succeeded it. For the last 15 years of my career before my retirement 12 years ago I was head of an outer-London comprehensive. Since then I have been active in the classroom on a fairly regular, if part-time basis.

The problems for more than 30 years have been "behaviour, behaviour, behaviour" — not the question of educating students of varying abilities in the same establishment. Neither is mixed-ability teaching the answer, save when it is in the hands of a very few gifted teachers. Sensible setting by ability is perfectly feasible and far less stressful for both children and staff.

However, if heads and governors do not insist on a without-exception policy of creating a safe environment conducive to a continuous learning process, then schools will fall the overwhelming proportion of their pupils. Unruly behaviour should be seen to incur immediate and appropriate sanctions, and violence or the threat of it to staff should be followed by exclusion — temporary or permanent. Only in these circumstances will the vast majority prosper, be they of average, below average, or above average ability.

The problem of what to do with those excluded is an entirely different question and the answer is not, as the Secretary of State is attempting to insist upon, the containment within the schools of those whose disruptive influence is out of all proportion to their numbers (letters, November 18 and 23). The quality of the environment is of paramount importance.

Yours faithfully,
ALLEN HEATON PAGE,
52 Acacia Close,
Stammore, Middlesex HA7 3JR,
November 29.

From Professor Emeritus Anthony Ralston

Sir, Mary Ann Sieghart has some cogent things to say about London's schools but she throws them all away with a hopelessly elitist proposal at the end. To propose the establishment of some "best" secondary schools for the capital's "brightest children" might well solve an education problem for many parents but it would do nothing for the vast majority of children not among the "brightest".

These children: no less than the bright ones, deserve a quality education in London and elsewhere in Britain. Otherwise these other children will remain, in Ms Sieghart's words, "condemned to low standards, low expectations, poor discipline and poor results". Is this what she wants?

Sincerely,
ANTHONY RALSTON,
Flat 4, Albert Court,
58 Prince Consort Road, SW7 2BA,
November 29.

Hand fisted

From Mr Bernard Graham

Sir, I note with some interest that Baroness Thatcher, Ronald Reagan and David Gower all suffer from Dupuytren's contracture — the condition which bends the little finger into a claw (Daily, November 19). I have the same affliction and have been told that the first person to have had a surgical procedure to cure the condition was a French winemaker, Baron Guillaume Dupuytren (1777-1835).

The Baron was said to have contracted the complaint as a result of hammering home wine-barrel bungs with the palm of his hand.

Yours sincerely,
B. GRAHAM,
47 Bailey Crescent, Fleetbridge,
Poole, Dorset BH15 3EZ.

Return of Elgin Marbles urged

From Mr William G. Stewart

Sir, Whether or not it is true, as stated in today's leading article, "Art for their own sake", that "Modern Greek ambition to possess the Elgin Marbles does not go back much beyond Ms Mercouri's time", the political and diplomatic battle in this country goes back over almost two centuries.

Hansard, on a debate on June 7, 1816, records an amendment put down in the House of Commons by Hugh Hammersley, which included the words:

Great Britain holds these Marbles only in trust until they are demanded by the present, or any future, possessors of the City of Athens; and upon such demand, engages, without question or negotiation, to restore them, as far as can be effected, to the places from whence they were taken, and that they shall be in the meantime carefully preserved in the British Museum.

Thirty members of Parliament voted against the purchase. And so it has gone on ever since. A House of Commons Library Research Note on the Marbles, compiled in 1983, has an eight-page section headed *Outline of the Argument since 1816*.

In 1941, following a question in the House of Commons to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Office recommended that "it should be decided in principle to return to Greece the Elgin Marbles".

In 1961 Harold Macmillan answered a question on the Marbles, saying: "... this is a complicated question ... I will not dismiss it from my mind."

In the same year the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker of the House of Commons all received telegrams from the then Mayor of Athens requesting the return.

As for the British people, a MORI poll taken last September showed that they would, by a majority of two to one, support returning the Marbles. A poll taken in July showed that a majority of MPs were in favour of return: Labour MPs by 57 per cent to 33 per cent. A declaration in the

European Parliament in 1996 advocating return attracted the signatures of two thirds of the Labour MEPs.

The Labour Government has got itself into a mess over the Marbles. In 1994, Mark Fisher, the Shadow Arts Minister, speaking from the front bench in a Commons debate, committed Labour to working out "the orderly return of the Elgin Marbles". What has happened to this commitment?

Yours faithfully,
W. G. STEWART,
6 Pumey Common, SW15 1HL,
November 26.

From Mr Martin R. Edwards

Sir, John Carr writes disparagingly, and in over-generalised terms, of the Greeks' interest in their classical past (report, "Marbles lose out to God and Mammon in great Greek debate", November 25).

First he cites an Athenian taxi-driver who has not visited the Acropolis for fifty years, then asserts that "most Greeks visit the Acropolis only on school trips". Finally he calls in support the aversion that Greek students have for Homer and Xenophon.

It might equally be argued that most English students have a dread of Shakespeare and Chaucer and have only visited Shakespeare's birthplace on school trips.

The Greeks are far more cultured than Mr Carr gives them credit for and their "affinity with their Byzantine heritage" stems from their loyalty to the Church and to Christian values — something singularly lacking here. If the modern-day Greek is more concerned with his "new car" or his "summer home", he is in no way different to his English counterpart.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN R. EDWARDS,
6 Doveridge Gardens,
Palmer's Green, N13 5BL,
edwardsm@logica.com
November 25.

Browning the land

From Dr Richard Fordham

Sir, You say in today's leading article, "Browning the land", that "affordable housing encourages new households to form" (letters, November 30). This is misleading. Of all households in housing need, only about a quarter are "concealed households", the (normally young) adults to whom you refer. Most are existing households.

My firm has now surveyed about 25 per cent of the population of Britain, and in our recent book, *Housing Need and the Need for Housing* (Ashgate, 1998), we estimated that about 1.8 million households in Britain are in housing need. About 1.1 million of these would require new affordable housing. Building this would reduce the need for new market housing, because some of the vacant housing would be reusable as market housing for those who could afford it.

Unfortunately, government policy discourages, on brownfield sites, the land subsidy required for affordable housing, thereby ensuring that new affordable housing is mainly greenfield. In its forthcoming advice, the Government should therefore make a

distinction between the need for market-priced housing and affordable housing, and remove the viability test for the latter on brownfield sites.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD FORDHAM
(Managing Director),
Fordham Research Ltd,
99 Talbot Road, W11 2AT,
November 23.

From Mr S. J. Osmond

Sir, Governmental obsession, both Tory and Labour, with housing forecasts smacks of the worst type of Soviet state planning. Government does not forecast how many oil wells should be drilled or how many trees should be planted. Why employ hundreds of civil servants to make forecasts better left to developers?

The Government's role should be to prescribe strict environmental standards (including protection of the countryside) — and then leave it to market forces to decide how many houses to build, and of what type.

Yours faithfully,
SAM OSMOND,
Sylvans, Tilford Road,
Farnham, Surrey GU9 8JA,
s.j.osmond@btinternet.com
November 23.

Masons and judges

From Mr Alfred Finer

Sir, I take issue with Michael Shortall about judges being asked to indicate whether they are Freemasons (letter, November 24; see also letters, November 2, 6, 18 and 23). Magistrates, too, are being asked the same question, and if I were still on the active list I would refuse to answer, although I am not and never have been, a Freemason. But then, as a justice of the peace, I was not salaried.

Judges are paid by the State and many may think it expedient not to make waves. This does not mean that by answering the Lord Chancellor's letter they do not believe that it is an invasion of their privacy.

As a member of mental health review tribunals I have come across a significant number of people who would equate Freemasons with Jews. Will the judiciary be asked to record their religion, or whether they are atheist or agnostic?

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED FINER,
15 Regency House, N3 3JZ,
November 24.

From Mr Bryan Imber

Sir, Mr Michael Shortall perpetuates the myth that Freemasons swear to support brother Masons to the detriment of others.

The Masonic oath pledges brotherhood to members of the fraternity, and adherence to the principles of morality and virtue. Brotherhood, relief, and truth, are basic precepts of the fraternity.

A Freemason's vows are totally compatible with his civil, moral, and religious duties and this is made clear before he enters into any obligation to the fraternity.

Throughout the ceremonies in which he participates he is reminded of his duties and responsibilities not only to his brethren but to all men.

On this basis I think there may well be a pretty good case for judges to be obliged to declare if they are not masons.

Yours truly,
B. IMBER,
150 Roding Lane South,
Redbridge, Essex IG4 5FP,
bryanimber@aol.com
November 24.

"Titanic" postcard

From Mr Gavin Littaur

Sir, Richard Ashton of Sotheby's is correct in stating that the Titanic postcard from Edith Brown, due to be sold at auction, is the only one known to have survived among those which were still on board when the ship struck the iceberg (report and photograph, November 21).

I am fortunate to have the only recorded letter (with accompanying envelope) which, likewise, survived the sinking. Headed "On board R.M.S. Titanic", with the White Star house flag embossed in red, it was written on the fateful Sunday by another second-class passenger, Esther Hart, whose seven-year-old daughter penned a charming postscript: "Heaps of love and kisses to all

from Eva XXX [14 in all]!"

This letter survived owing to its being in the pocket of a heavy jacket worn by Esther's husband, Benjamin Hart, who wrapped it around his beloved wife before they entered the lifeboat. Like Edith Brown's father, he bravely stayed on board the sinking ship.

By an extraordinary coincidence, the two mothers and daughters escaped — with their postcard and four-page letter — in lifeboat No 14.

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN LITTAUR,
54a The Drive, NW11 9TL,
November 22.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Imperial smoke wins on balance

From Mr Vivian Linacre

Sir, Your food and drink page (Weekend) of November 28 featured a critical survey of the smoked mackerel sold by ten different retailers. Nine of the brands were priced at so much per so many hundreds of grams, with the equivalent price per kilo, and were rated in quality by stars, from none to three; the other one was priced very simply per pound and rated the best with four stars.

This may not prove that everything marked in imperial necessarily tastes better than its metric competitors, but it does indicate yet again that those producing goods of the highest quality tend to care enough for their customers still to use pounds and ounces (as does Delia Smith in her current TV series), which anybody can easily visualise, rather than the huge abstract numbers of the metric system. So the otherwise admirable Frances Bissell's metricification continues to perplex us.

This is an issue, not just about cookery but of fundamental educational importance. Anthropologists have shown that, in evolution of humankind as in development of the individual infant, a sense of number precedes that of language. At the age of two or three a child has acquired an understanding of measurement, in time and music as in quantity, can count modestly, and will usefully play at cookery (among other games), learning with one hand or two the feel of an ounce or a pound of flour or sugar; but 50g or 150g means nothing.

None of this is denied by the authorities, whose response is: "Don't try to teach your child anything; so long as you are being Europeanised and having fun, education is irrelevant." Metrication is all part of the catastrophic dumbing-down process.

Yours imperially,
VIVIAN LINACRE
(Director),
British Weights and Measures Association,
45 Montgomery Street,
Edinburgh EH7 5JX,
November 29.

Publishing poetry

From Dr Nigel Smith and Dr Nicholas Shrimpton

Sir, The Oxford English Faculty Board strongly deplores the decision of Oxford University Press to abolish its contemporary poetry list (letters, November 25 and 27). The list is of great distinction, and has been carefully nurtured during the course of the century. Its running costs are marginal, and the return of expenditure in terms of enormous educational and cultural benefits is beyond doubt.

The English faculty has several distinguished poets among its teaching members, and it seeks to promote the writing, reading and study of poetry in many of its activities.

We therefore wish to dissociate ourselves from the decision, of which we had no prior warning, and we call upon Oxford University Press to reinstate the poetry list at the earliest opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL SMITH
(Chair, Faculty Board of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford),
NICHOLAS SHRIMPTON
(Chair, Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford),
St Cross Building,
Manor Road, Oxford OX1 3UQ,
December 1.

Cost of Christmas

From Mr Alexander T. Murray

Sir, I note with interest that, this year, the average cost of a Christmas gift will be £42 (report, "Britons buy the dearest Christmas presents", November 30).

The mid-Sixties was when it first fell to me to spend my pocket money (6d per week) on family presents rather than rely on parental munificence. The final tally was three bath cubes (3d each), pipe cleaners (9d), a pencil (4d) and a pencil sharpener (7d). The total of 2s 5d now translates into roughly 12p.

Wrapping paper was, of course, in the decorations box and re-used from previous years.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER T. MURRAY,
Nut Tree Hall,
Plaxtol, Kent TN15 0RG,
November 30.

Cruelty to moles?

From Mrs Denise Dew-Hughes

Sir, I have spent a depressing weekend watching a mole slowly destroy my lawn.

Gardening friends advise me that the most humane way to repel moles is to detach the battery-operated cell from a musical greeting card and drop it into the excavations.

I don't have a singing greeting card, but a recently issued report from a major PR company delivers a short spoken address from the chairman on opening. Would this be an effective alternative?

Yours faithfully,
DENISE DEW-HUGHES,
104 Woodstock Road,
Oxford OX2 7NE,
November 24.

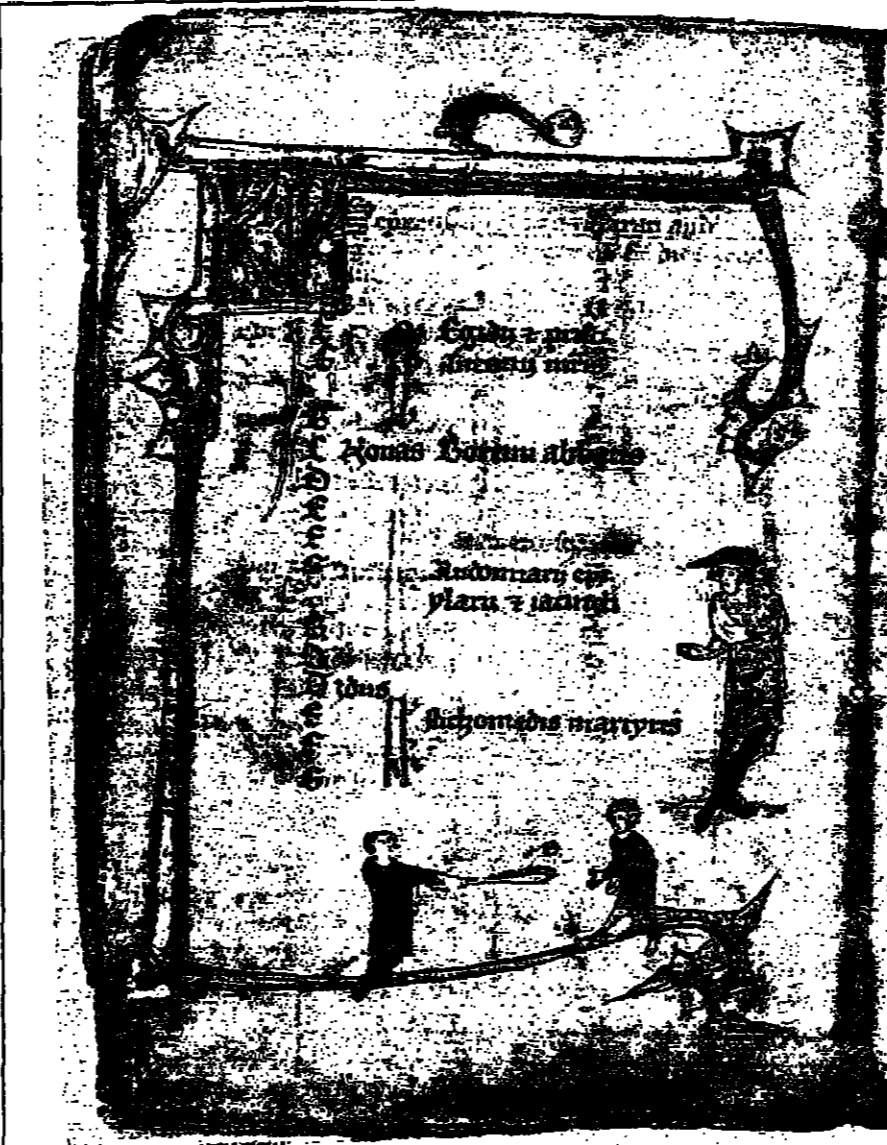
COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

December 1: The President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau Herzig...

Memorial service

Sir Denis Buckley Princess Margaret was present at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Denis Buckley...



An illuminated book of hours from 1299, known as the Calendar of the Ghistelles, which includes this illustration, believed to be the earliest known picture of cricket, fetched £13,800 at a Sotheby's London auction yesterday

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.G.M. Adcock and Miss M.E. Jackson The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs John Adcock...

Specialty attached in attendance

The President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau Herzig, accompanied by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh...

Diplomatic Corps

His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria...

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

His Excellency the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland...

Special invitations

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs The Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown MP and Mrs Ashdown...

The Cabinet

The Prime Minister and the Lady Irvine of Lairg, the Prime Minister and Mrs Blair...

Special invitations

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs The Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown MP and Mrs Ashdown...

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, with the Duke of Kent, visited the German School, Petersham, Surrey...

The President of the Federal Republic of Germany

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BIRTHS

ROSE - On November 18th to Dominic and Son, a son Hugo Alexander, brother to Michael and Lara.

DEATHS

COOK - Tom William, 82, died peacefully on Saturday, November 28th, 1998.

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COOK - Tom William, 82, died peacefully on Saturday, November 28th, 1998.

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OBITUARIES - A vertical column on the far right side of the page containing various obituary notices.

OBITUARIES

JOHN CHADWICK

John Chadwick, FBA, Perceval Maitland Laurence Reader in Classics at Cambridge University, 1969-84, died on November 24 aged 78. He was born on May 21, 1920.



The distinguished philologist John Chadwick gained world-wide renown in the early 1950s for his collaboration with the late Michael Ventris in the decipherment of the Linear B script of Bronze Age Greece.

John Chadwick was educated at St Paul's School and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he took his degree in 1946 following war service in the Royal Navy.

In 1952 Chadwick heard a radio broadcast by a 29-year-old architect, Michael Ventris, tentatively suggesting that the Linear B script, found on clay tablets from Knossos and Pylos, could be deciphered as

Greek, and was thus much the earliest evidence for the language. Chadwick was already interested in Linear B, and he wrote to Ventris offering his assistance as a 'mere philologist'.

Though it was Ventris (as Chadwick always stressed) who made the key breakthroughs in the decipherment, Chadwick, knowing as a linguist what Greek of this period would probably look like, played a vitally important role in the partnership at the stage of applying the decipher-

ment to all the texts, and during this process he established the sound-value of a previously undeciphered sign.

When it came to publishing the first scholarly account of the decipherment in 1953, Ventris insisted that Chadwick's name should appear with his own at the head of the paper. In his very successful book *The Decipherment of Linear B* (1958, 2nd edition 1967), Chadwick gave a lucid account of the process of decipherment, and painted a charming and moving portrait of Ventris and of their work together. The book was translated into 12 languages.

next collaborative venture was the production, in an astonishingly short time, of *Documents in Mycenaean Greek* (1956), a massive account of Linear B containing a full commentary on 300 selected texts. Though many of the details of *Documents* now need modification in the light of subsequent developments, it is remarkable how much of it still remains valid: a tribute not only to the solidity of their scholarship but also to their caution and soundness of judgment. The same qualities characterise Chadwick's second edition of *Documents* (1973).

After Ventris's death, Chadwick rapidly became established as one of the two or three leading scholars in the world working in the new field of Mycenaean Greek which the original decipherment had opened up. He was a much respected figure at international conferences (which he enjoyed), and his presence in Cambridge made it a Mecca for younger scholars from many countries wanting to do advanced work in the subject.

Later in his career, much of Chadwick's writing continued to be on linguistic topics. But he was also an expert epigraphist, and published excellent editions of newly discovered texts, always with commendable speed. From the 1950s onwards he led an international group of collaborators working to produce a definitive edition of the Knossos tablets. Fortunately, Chadwick lived long enough to correct the proofs of the fourth and final volume of the *Corpus of Mycenaean Inscriptions from Knossos*, which will appear next year.

The tablets originally had a practical purpose, that they were the administrative records of Mycenaean kingdoms. He was superb at elucidating the bureaucratic function of tablets, and in his attractive *Mycenaean World* (1976), which was translated into six languages, summarised for non-specialist readers the results of his and others' work in reconstructing the geography, economy and society of Late Bronze Age Greece with the help of the documents.

Chadwick was also a fine teacher. His lecturing manner was a little stiff and formal (eye-contact with the audience was a relatively rare event), but his audiences soon realised the quality of what they were hearing. His great forte, however, was supervising research students, over whom he took immense trouble. Many of them became his lifelong friends.

Chadwick received many honours, particularly abroad. At Cambridge, he was made an honorary fellow of his College, Downing. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1967. In 1987-88 he served as President of the Swedenborg Society. Chadwick compiled a lexicon of Swedenborg's New-Latin, and translated two of his books. On casual occasions he could seem somewhat aloof, but this was the product merely of shyness, and he was in reality the warmest and kindest of men, who could never do enough to help pupils and colleagues in difficulty.

John Chadwick is survived by his wife Joan, whom he married in 1947, and by his son.

SQUADRON LEADER JOHN WARD

Squadron Leader John Ward, MBE, Chairman of the General Aviation Safety Committee, 1964-94, died on November 5 aged 81. He was born in Cooma, New South Wales, on September 7, 1917.



IN RETIREMENT from an RAF career which saw him flying Army co-operation Lyndersanders at Dunkirk, Hawker Tempest fighters in the North-West Europe campaign and Dakotas during the Berlin Airlift, John Ward founded the General Aviation Safety Committee (GASCo) in 1964, and chaired it for 30 years.

The committee (since 1994 the General Aviation Safety Council) sprang from the need, perceived by all those involved in commercial and recreational flying, to do something about the increasing number of private aviation accidents which were taking place in the 1950s and 1960s.

By then an experienced pilot, Ward was asked, in 1964, by Air Chief Marshal the Earl of Bandon (himself a wartime bomber commander) to form a committee representing all private and non-scheduled commercial pilots, in an attempt to improve flight safety.

Thus, GASCo was born, and for a period of thirty years, Ward was the committee, acting as chairman and secretary and editing its quarterly journal *Flight Safety Bulletin*, whose motto always was "improve safety through knowledge". Today it incorporates 29 different member organisations ranging from the Civil Aviation Authority and the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators to the British Balloon and Airship Club and the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association.

Although born in Australia, the son of a clergyman, Ward had his education in England, at Lancing College. He had wanted to fly from an early age, but when, in 1936, he applied for a commission in the RAF he was turned down. He therefore acquired his A class flying licence privately. He next spent a couple of years back in Australia, but when he returned to England at the end of 1938 with war

clouds gathering, his application to the RAF met a very different reception, and he was granted a short service commission.

In 1940 he went to France as part of the Air Component of the British Expeditionary Force, flying Lyndersanders which were responsible for tactical reconnaissance and the photographic survey of the dispositions of the enemy. The Lyndersanders were some of the last aircraft to leave France as the German advance of May 1940 gradually overwhelmed the RAF's bases.

After Dunkirk, he spent the next three years of the war training, first at the Central Flying School at Upavon and later in South Africa, to which far-flung spot, as he later amusingly recalled, he, as an Australian, had to go to teach Belgian pilots to fly American aircraft. But he was back in action before the war ended, flying Tempests with the 2nd Tactical Air Force on ground attack missions in support of the British and Canadian advance through Holland and Germany.

He remained in the Royal Air Force after the war and

when, in June 1948, the Soviet Union blockaded the Western sectors of Berlin, cutting off all access routes by land or water, he was among the pilots chosen to fly in what became a mammoth relief effort by British and American aircraft. He took part all the way through an operation which lasted almost a year before the Russians lifted the siege.

When he eventually retired from the RAF in 1958 he had flown 47 different types of aircraft, ranging from single-seat biplanes, through large transports to jet fighters like the Vampire and Meteor, as well as 19 different types of glider.

In the following years he was to increase the figure for powered aircraft to 78. In addition to his flying skills, Ward will be remembered as a kindly man, though one with a wicked sense of humour.

His work for the General Aviation Safety Committee brought him appointment as MBE in 1972. His wife Esme died in 1989. Their daughter had died following a car accident in 1970. Ward is survived by his son and by two stepdaughters.

PHILIP BROWNRIGG

Philip Brownrigg CMG, DSO, OBE, TD, former journalist and industrialist, died on November 17 aged 87. He was born on June 3, 1911.

American in 1969 he was appointed to the boards of Zambia's newly nationalised copper mining companies, Roan Consolidated and Nchanga. Although he returned to Britain to live, he travelled frequently to Lusaka, until retiring from these boardroom appointments in 1980.

Meanwhile he returned the compliment to his old friend Ian Fleming by acting as an unpaid consultant on the Bond books, advising the author on the finer points of golf and bridge. (He recently sold his collection of first editions for charity.)

Philip Henry Akerman Brownrigg was born in Oxford, where his father was Headmaster of Magdalen College School. Philip won a scholarship to Eton, where his pace and athleticism made him a brilliant exponent of the field game, then went up to Magdalen to read Greats.



He entered journalism on graduating, running a magazine called *Synopsis*, in partnership with another old Etonian, until the outbreak of war. Already an officer in the Territorial Army, Brownrigg

began the war as a captain in the 6th Royal Berkshires, but was transferred in 1941 to the 61st Regiment of the then newly formed Reconnaissance Corps. Three years later

regiment lost half its strength). He was to prove an inspirational commander, leading the regiment with distinction, often far ahead of the main force, throughout its subsequent advance across France and the Low Countries. His finest hour, however, came during the German offensive in the Ardennes. He led the regiment in a series of brilliant manoeuvres along the Meuse which helped to preoccupy the enemy until the 6th Airborne Division arrived from Britain.

The 61st, moreover, despite being heavily embattled, suffered fewer casualties under his leadership than any other unit in the Reconnaissance Corps. He was awarded the DSO in 1945 and went on to serve in the TA as commanding officer of the 4/6th Royal Berkshires between 1949 and 1952.

He went to work for the Kemsley organisation after the war, becoming editor of the slightly downmarket *Sunday Graphic* in 1952. But Brownrigg was essentially a sensitive, self-effacing, courteous man, who was not perhaps well suited to the rough and tumble of Fleet Street. He confessed to feeling continuously exhausted during his short-lived occupation of the Editor's chair.

Nor did he empathise with some of the right-wing white politicians in Rhodesia during the run-up to Ian Smith's 1965 Unilateral Declaration of Independence. His friendship with Kaunda, on the other hand, was a lasting one, and resulted in his book *Kenneth Kaunda*, published in 1989. Kaunda often called on him when visiting this country — the final occasion being last summer.

In retirement, Brownrigg settled into the rural life of his Berkshire village, becoming churchwarden and editing a village newsletter. He played golf off a single-figure handicap, travelling to London for meetings of the Zambia Society, of which he was a founder member and life president.

His wife "Minty" died six years ago; he is survived by their three daughters.

OLIVE BARNETT

Olive Barnett, OBE, Savoy Hotel executive, died on November 9 aged 91. She was born on March 17, 1907.



OLIVE BARNETT devoted her entire professional life to the Savoy Group of Hotels which she joined as a young woman in 1928, retiring after a long and eventful career 47 years later.

She began as the secretary to Sir George Reeves-Smith, the managing director. Her arrival preceded that of Hugh Wortley (later Sir Hugh Wortley), Sir George's successor, with whom she was to work in close collaboration for many years, as his personal assistant. In this role she was actively involved in the many fierce, unsuccessful takeover battles in which the company was engaged over four decades, which were attentively followed by the media and a wide range of observers, including the shareholders.

Her main responsibility lay with the Savoy training department, which she created and then headed for almost her entire career. After the war she became concerned with the recruitment of young people — at first mainly men — from the Services.

When the Industrial Training Act came into force in 1964, the Savoy had already established itself as an industry leader in the training field by virtue of its management training course, through which young men from all over the world started their careers in

the hotel industry. From its inception the Savoy Training Centre placed emphasis additionally on the teaching of languages, which was unusual in these days.

Because of her training expertise Olive Barnett became a member of the Hotel & Catering Institute, as it was then called, and vice-chairman of the Recruitment and Training Committee of the British Hotels and Restaurants Association (now the British Hospitality Association). She was also a member of the Joint Advisory Committee for Hotelkeeping and Catering of the City and Guilds of London Institute, and in 1969 she was appointed by the Minister of Labour to be one of the employers' representatives on the Hotel and Catering Industry Training Board. She also sat on the CBI Education and Training Committee.

Barnett also played an active role in another important field: sales and business pro-

motion. She was for a time before the last war in charge of the Savoy's representative office in New York, situated in the Waldorf Astoria.

She also attended many meetings of the International Hotel Association, of which the Savoy was a founder member, and where she made many friends whom she entertained with a ready wit and a vast fund of hotel stories.

The encyclopaedic knowledge of the hotel industry which Barnett possessed was truly astonishing. She also had an inventive and original mind which made her a formidable opponent in debate. She had an unerring ability to ask penetrating and unexpected questions to which it was often difficult to formulate a reply.

Barnett was an exceptionally shrewd and candid judge of people, and management trainees were selected with skill and a keen instinct. Once accepted, the trainees' progress was watched over with an eagle eye, but she took a motherly interest too. She thus inspired a striking mixture of awe and affection in the trainees, many of whom subsequently occupied senior positions in different parts of the world. She gave generously of her time as a trustee of the Savoy Educational Trust.

In recognition of her services to the hotel industry Olive Barnett was appointed OBE in 1981. She was married to Cyril Martin French who predeceased her. There were no children.

PERSONAL COLUMN

PERSONAL COLUMN containing various advertisements: DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES, FOR SALE, MIDWEEK RENDEZVOUS, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, CHARTERED EXPERTS, FLIGHTSEEKERS, GREAT DEALS, LUXUS TRAVEL LTD., JETLINE, JETWORLD, DELTA WORLDWIDE, and various travel and service notices.

BRITISH ISLES WIN THE DAVIS CUP ON THIS DAY December 2, 1912. The Davis Cup was given in 1900 by Dwight F. Davis, Mr Brookes mentioned in this report, was the great Australian player, Sir Norman Brookes (1877-1969). The Davis Cup was won on Saturday by the British, as had been foretold by the first day's play. On Thursday Mr. Parke beat Mr. Brookes and Mr. Dixon beat Mr. Heath, thus giving Great Britain two out of the five events. On Friday the Australian deficit was reduced to one as the result of the Doubles but on Saturday Mr. Parke followed up his earlier success by adding Mr. Heath to his bag, and thus the visiting team won the cup, in spite of the defeat of Mr. Dixon by Mr. Brookes. The Australians rallied gallantly, but failed to recover from the disasters of the opening day. The victory of Mr. Dixon over Mr. Heath need cause no surprise. Mr. Heath, we are told, never reproduced his best Australian form when he was in England last year, but when all allowances are made it is difficult to regard him as the equal of Mr. Dixon. He seemed to distrust himself overhead, and he was far from invulnerable on his backhand; that is to say, he is weak just where he would wish to be strong if Mr. Dixon was lobbing, as he lobbed at a critical period of the championship round in this year's doubles, or delivering the high-kicking, off-breaking service which has troubled such masters of the backhand stroke as M. Decugis and M. Gobert. Mr. Heath is one of the neatest volleyers: one would expect him to do well against a player of the German school who drives hard and deep, and therefore comparatively straight up and down the court, but less well against Mr. Dixon, who can push the ball low and gently to the side lines with the touch of a billiard player. The result of the Doubles was awaited in England with hope rather than with confidence. Mr. Beamish and Mr. Parke can rise to such heights in rally play that they might have overwhelmed the holders by the sheer brilliance of their strokes; for Mr. Dunlop is accurate rather than severe, and Mr. Brookes is less formidable with two opponents to outwit than in a single, where his subtle placing makes up for a certain tentativeness in his overhead play. But the British pair are unreliable in service; both are subject to lapses, and neither possesses the steady influence over the other which Mr. Barrett, for instance, exerts over Mr. Dixon. Nor do they exhibit the knowledge of tactics which characterises the two Australians. Both are impulsive players against whom Mr. Dunlop's sudden lobs and low oblique return of service would be particularly effective. On paper it was certain that if Mr. Parke could beat Mr. Brookes he could beat Mr. Heath, but he has not taught us to expect consistency from him, and the result of his second single was awaited with impatience. At his best Mr. Parke can play superb lawn tennis, and it is only because visitors to Wimbledon have so often seen him sacrifice the point to the stroke that his double victory will surprise them. But it is said that he cannot obtain sufficient practice early in the season in Ireland to do himself justice in the championships, and so perhaps the Australians have been seeing the real Mr. Parke. His success will be extremely popular among followers of lawn tennis.

NEWS

Labour's EU honeymoon soured

Labour's honeymoon with Europe was under severe strain last night after Germany and France demanded an end to the veto of Britain and other countries on European tax decisions.

Sex-change girl wins legal battle

A girl who was officially classed as a boy for the first ten years of her life has won a long fight to have her birth certificate changed.

Train firm prosecuted

Great Western Trains is being prosecuted for corporate manslaughter over the deaths of seven passengers in the Southall rail crash in September last year.

Farm incomes drop

Farm incomes have fallen by a third this year, according to an official estimate.

War of words

Book translators are campaigning for recognition, seeking to have their names on the covers of books rather than buried somewhere inside in the small print.

Dung wins Turner

Elephants at London Zoo have enabled an artist to win £20,000 for this year's Turner Prize.

Tuition fee fight

Oxford University is preparing to suspend two students for refusing to pay their £1,000 tuition fees.

Arctic ordeal over

A three-man television crew, stranded for six weeks in appalling weather and bitter cold on a Russian island in the Arctic Ocean, was rescued by a Russian helicopter.

Tatchell fined £18.60

A magistrate yesterday fined the homosexual activist Peter Tatchell £18.60 in a reference to the date of the law used to convict him of disrupting the Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter sermon with a protest.

Corruption fears

The pledge by 50 foreign donors at a Washington conference this week of more than \$3 billion (£1.8 million) in aid to the Palestinians has revived concern over the corruption already endemic in Yasser Arafat's fledgling state.

Coalmining package

Help for depressed communities in former English coalmining areas was offered by the Government with a £350 million aid package over the next three years.

Paris rich targeted

A gang of burglars, armed with pistols, masks and a copy of Who's Who is terrorising the smartest neighbourhoods in Paris by breaking into the homes of wealthy celebrities.

A man with £30 million to give away

To most people, being chosen to help spend £30 million of lottery funds would be a dream come true. But to Jeremy Rosenblatt, selected to represent the common man by the National Lottery Charities Board, the job is riddled with irritations.



The ASDA Santa school opened yesterday, with 32 recruits set for intensive training before arriving in grottos across Scotland

MARKETS

Market dives: London shares plunged by more than 200 points in reaction to Monday's vicious bout of profit-taking on Wall Street after last month's return to record highs.

SPORTS

Cricket: Officials of the county clubs are set to make a radical change to the first-class game in England this century: a two-division championship.

BROADWAY BABIES

Broadway babies: A former hardcore porn cinema on 42nd Street has been reborn as New York's first ever children's theatre - and a British show is packing them in.

GENE MYSTERY

Gene mystery: Human beings, despite appearances, are remarkably similar under the skin, as the genes of Africans, Asians and Europeans reveal.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS: Geoff Brown sees Hollywood go the whole hog as Babe Pig in the City goes to town

BOOKS: Roger Scruton reviews a Spinoza life; Roy Foster on an Irish maverick's memoirs

MERSEY BOOM

Mersey boom: Don't tell anyone, but unbeknown to the media, an inner-city property boom is happening in Liverpool.

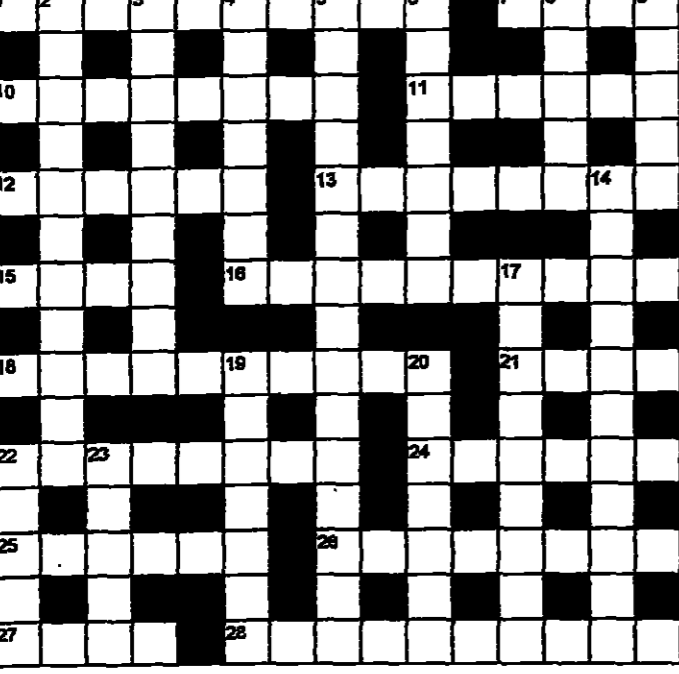
GEORGIAN REVIVAL

Georgian revival: After being used for most of this century as offices, one of London's finest Georgian buildings is being restored as a house.

HONG KONG STANDARD

It is in Malaysia's interests that justice must be fully seen to be done. And nothing serves this end better than allowing full and free hearing of all the claims, whether from the defence or from the prosecution side.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,964



- ACROSS
1 Chosen pieces as arranged by one composer or another (10).
7 Springs in a convulsive movement cut short (4).
10 A sudden descent on the organ? (4-4).
11 No solicitor dismissed? On the contrary (3,3).
12 Tenant bound by rules seemingly (6).
13 Black stuff on outside of cloth is aromatic herb (8).
15 Lecherous look from bravo grabbing first of girls (4).
16 I get to slip badly and flap on the way down (10).
18 Horrible Vera, hit Pam, beastly type drawing blood (7,3).
21 A trained educationist retired (4).
22 Personal appeal, so tea is laid by Mum (8).
24 Happen to suffer restriction in bearing (6).
25 Experienced trainer brings fellows to peak (6).
26 Don't put defender on transfer list - could be reserve (4,4).
27 Final help here for a pair down on their uppers? (4).
28 Find me in such a state, reverse of healthy old person (10).
DOWN
2 Work out steps for hop or charge around clumsily (11).
3 Perhaps maidens given shelter gently slumber through the day? (9).
4 Artlessness of bridge player I've scoffed about (7).
5 The answer for someone wanting to be 21 but lacking the bottle? (8,7).
6 Officer not concerned with details (7).
8 Bit of implement - for turning over ends of garden? (5).
9 Findin' place for protest (3-2).
14 Judge's comments that could be distribe to Counsel, primarity (6,5).
17 Easily controlled vehicle going up on plateau (9).
19 Stage offering rock - half of it guitar sound (7).
20 Bill not high, it's reported, for a spectacular show (7).
22 Arrived with new driver in desert transport (5).
23 Name a long time around (5).

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions 0230 454 510
UK Roads - All regions 0230 401 410
Motorway 0230 401 700

Weather by Fax

Get 02 faxed by area number from your fax
UK Fax 0230 401 410
World City Weather 0230 401 410

Motorway

Europe's motorway by country 0230 401 800
European Rail code 0230 401 800
Support Information 0230 401 800
Le Shuttle Fax 0230 401 800

Car reports by fax

Get car reports from your car by fax from the UK 0230 410 399
you may have to use a public payphone.

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Sun rises: 7.45 am Sun sets: 3.55 pm
Moon sets: 5.58 am Moon rises: 3.42 pm

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 46.0% of the cost material for UK newspapers in 1997

clued.up@demon
0800 458 9666

General: southern half of England and Wales cold and dry with sunny breaks.

North Wales, the north Midlands and northern England dry with some sun early fog and frost clear.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S and N England, E and W Midlands: cold and mainly cloudy but also mainly dry although rather misty.

A cold northerly wind, Max 6C (41F). E and NE England: cold and mostly cloudy with a little drizzle over the hills in the morning.

Channel Is, SW England, S Wales: a cold wind with a lot of cloud but also some brief sunny breaks.

A moderate, locally fresh, northerly wind, Max 7C (45F). N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: drizzle in places at first then mainly dry but cloudy.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloudy; d=drizzle; ds=drizzle; dr=drizzle; f=fog; g=gale; h=hail; i=ice; m=mainly; o=overcast; r=rain; s=sunny; t=thunder; w=wind.

Table with columns: Sun, Rain, W, C, Max. Lists weather conditions for various locations like Aberdeen, Anglesey, Argyll, etc.

ARABIA

Table with columns: Air, Sea, Sun, Rain, W, C, Max. Lists weather conditions for various locations like Alaccio, Accroli, etc.

Main drizzle in places at first then mainly dry but cloudy.

A light southerly wind, Max 7C (45F). Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney: a lot of cloud but some sun.

Argyll, NW Scotland: mild, few spots of drizzle.

A light southerly wind, Max 11C (52F). Shetland: cloudy, some drizzle rain. A moderate to fresh southwest wind, Max 10C (50F).

N Ireland: mainly cloudy. A light southerly wind, Max 9C (48F).

North Atlantic: mainly cloudy with patchy light rain or drizzle in the north and west. Mist or fog elsewhere slowly clearing. Winds light south or southeast, Max 9C (48F).

Outlook: England and Wales largely dry and cold with night frosts. Scotland and Northern Ireland becoming colder with snow showers.



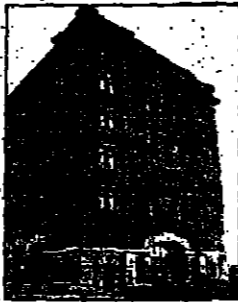
Table with columns: TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT. Lists weather forecasts for various locations like Aberdeen, Acromorph, Belfast, Cardiff, etc.

Vertical advertisements on the right margin including 'INSIDE SECTION', 'FTSE', 'Exxon', 'Claremont', and 'MG enjoy'.

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



ECONOMY
Janet Bush says
Britain is losing
European tax battle
PAGE 29



HOMES
Great lofts, cool
clubs: Liverpool
is booming
PAGES 37, 39



SPORT
Beauchamp
still to the
Manor born
PAGES 41-48

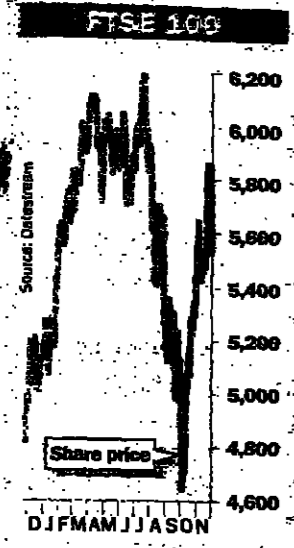
**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
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46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2 1998

FTSE suffers year's biggest fall

**BUSINESS
TODAY**



BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

LONDON Shares slumped more than 200 points in reaction to Monday's vicious bout of profit-taking on Wall Street following last month's return to record New York highs.

Economic gloom keeps alive hopes of cut in rates

but bounced back in afternoon trade to stand at 9,106, a fall of just ten points on the session. The heavy falls in London came as further gloomy news on the economy kept alive hopes of an interest rate cut as early as next week.

The UK purchasing managers index showed manufacturing output suffering the sharpest monthly fall since the survey began seven years ago.

The survey showed that the UK purchasing managers index showed manufacturing output suffering the sharpest monthly fall since the survey began seven years ago.

The survey showed that consumer, business and professional services — which constitute around 20 per cent of the total economy — are still registering growth, but are expecting a slowdown during the next three months.

an immediate half-point cut in rates. The survey showed that consumer, business and professional services — which constitute around 20 per cent of the total economy — are still registering growth, but are expecting a slowdown during the next three months.

STOCK MARKET INDICES

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| FTSE 100 | 5537.5 | (-206.4) |
| FTSE All Share | 2424.1 | (-88.45) |
| Nikkei | 14626.41 | (-48.29) |
| New York Dow Jones | 8051.58 | (-24.97) |
| S&P Composite | 1164.73 | (+1.10) |

US RATE

| | | |
|---------------|---------|-----------|
| Federal Funds | 4.75% | (4.75%) |
| Long bond | 100.25% | (102.25%) |
| Yield | 5.07% | (5.07%) |

LONDON MONEY

| | | |
|------------------|--------|----------|
| 3-mth interbank | 6.75% | (6.75%) |
| Little long gilt | 117.42 | (117.21) |

STERLING

| | | |
|----------|---------|----------|
| New York | 1.8540* | (1.8480) |
| London | 1.8527 | (1.8506) |
| DM | 2.7732 | (2.7908) |
| FF | 9.2992 | (9.3606) |
| Sfr | 2.2735 | (2.2959) |
| Yen | 201.50 | (202.59) |
| £ Index | 100.0 | (100.5) |

DOLLAR

| | | |
|---------|---------|----------|
| London | 1.8905* | (1.8930) |
| DM | 5.6360* | (5.6795) |
| Sfr | 1.3785* | (1.3930) |
| Yen | 122.17* | (122.56) |
| £ Index | 106.6 | (107.1) |

Tokyo close Yen 122.77

NORTH SEA OIL

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Brent 15-day (Feb) | \$10.60 | (\$10.70) |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|

GOLD

| | | |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| London close | \$294.10 | (\$292.05) |
|--------------|----------|------------|

* denotes midday trading prices

Exxon bids \$82bn in record-breaking deal with Mobil

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

EXXON yesterday stunned Wall Street with the details of its record-breaking \$82 billion (£60.5 billion) agreed bid for Mobil. Shareholders will receive an unusually large 32 per cent premium in the world's biggest merger.

AN ESTIMATED 10,000 jobs look set to go as Hoechst of Germany and Rhodia-Poulenc of France set about creating Aventis, whose \$20 billion (£12 billion) of annual sales will make it the world's largest life sciences group.

could take at least nine months to close the transaction. The merged group would have 20.743 billion barrels of oil and gas reserves, 1.631 million barrels per day of oil and gas production and 6.66 million barrels of refining capacity.



Total and Petrofina to merge

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

FALLING oil prices have forced two of Europe's biggest oil companies to merge. Yesterday Total of France said it would join forces with Belgium's Petrofina, creating the world's fifth largest oil company, with an estimated stock market value of £24 billion.

STOCK MARKET INDICES

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| FTSE 100 | 5537.5 | (-206.4) |
| FTSE All Share | 2424.1 | (-88.45) |
| Nikkei | 14626.41 | (-48.29) |
| New York Dow Jones | 8051.58 | (-24.97) |
| S&P Composite | 1164.73 | (+1.10) |

US RATE

| | | |
|---------------|---------|-----------|
| Federal Funds | 4.75% | (4.75%) |
| Long bond | 100.25% | (102.25%) |
| Yield | 5.07% | (5.07%) |

LONDON MONEY

| | | |
|------------------|--------|----------|
| 3-mth interbank | 6.75% | (6.75%) |
| Little long gilt | 117.42 | (117.21) |

STERLING

| | | |
|----------|---------|----------|
| New York | 1.8540* | (1.8480) |
| London | 1.8527 | (1.8506) |
| DM | 2.7732 | (2.7908) |
| FF | 9.2992 | (9.3606) |
| Sfr | 2.2735 | (2.2959) |
| Yen | 201.50 | (202.59) |
| £ Index | 100.0 | (100.5) |

DOLLAR

| | | |
|---------|---------|----------|
| London | 1.8905* | (1.8930) |
| DM | 5.6360* | (5.6795) |
| Sfr | 1.3785* | (1.3930) |
| Yen | 122.17* | (122.56) |
| £ Index | 106.6 | (107.1) |

Tokyo close Yen 122.77

NORTH SEA OIL

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Brent 15-day (Feb) | \$10.60 | (\$10.70) |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|

GOLD

| | | |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| London close | \$294.10 | (\$292.05) |
|--------------|----------|------------|

* denotes midday trading prices

Claremont jobs go in Courtaulds cuts

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

COURTAULDS TEXTILES is to close eight factories with the loss of more than 1,200 jobs at Claremont Garments, a supplier of Marks & Spencer.

Two of the factories, at Newton Aycliffe and Stanley, between them employing more than 300 people, are in the Prime Minister's Sedgefield constituency.

Barings trio branded incompetent

THREE former directors of Barings, the bank brought down by rogue trader Nick Leeson in 1995, have been branded "crass" and "incompetent" by a High Court judge as he banned them from any involvement in running a company (Richard Miles writes).

Newcastle turmoil over disgraced duo

By JASON NISSE

BATTLE has resumed at Newcastle United, the football club, over moves to re-elect the disgraced directors Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd, to the listed company's board.

Mr Cassidy is understood to feel that Cameron Hall has gone against its assurances on how Newcastle would be run if he took the chair. If he resigns, only two of nine directors at Newcastle's February 1997 flotation will be left.

IMG enjoys a £4m millennium experience



MARK McCORMACK's International Management Group (IMG) has been given a payment of more than £4 million for its work raising sponsorship for the Millennium Dome.

Last week NMEC announced that McDonald's, British Aerospace and GEC had agreed to back the Dome, bringing the amount of sponsorship to £120 million.

NMEC's chief executive, that its services would no longer be needed, IMG demanded payment of at least £8 million under this agreement.

Both sides claimed yesterday that the break up was amicable. "NMEC would like to acknowledge the contribution made by IMG in helping reach the sponsorship figures announced last week," said Mr Kane.

Eric Drossart, managing director of IMG, told The Times: "IMG is pleased to have played its part in providing these substantial sponsorship funds to the Millennium Experience and looks forward to a fantastic millennium celebration."

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|------------|-----|---------|
| Australia | 10p | 49p 80% |
| France | 9p | 28p 68% |
| Germany | 10p | 28p 64% |
| Japan | 16p | 67p 75% |
| USA | 6p | 24p 75% |
| UK mobiles | 15p | 30p 50% |

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AXS

Rover boss under pressure as BMW confirms job cuts

By SIGRID AUFTERBECK AND ADAM JONES

BMW will confirm this morning that it is cutting 2,500 jobs at its Rover subsidiary amid speculation that Walter Hasselkus, the chairman of Rover, might himself be replaced.

The cuts are part of a flexible working package agreed with unions that has been designed to stem the heavy losses at Rover.

Rover's woes are hurting BMW's shares, which fell 7 per cent yesterday, one of the worst performers in a weak market. According to a report in *Die Welt*, the German newspaper, Rover could lose as much as £532 million this year.

Speculation is rising that there will be casualties among senior Rover management. *Der Spiegel*, the German magazine, claimed several were to be fired and replaced by BMW managers. It claimed: "Even Walter Hasselkus, the Rover boss, must fear for his job."

BMW confirmed yesterday that there are plans to move managers from Germany to Britain, but said it was too early to give details.

BMW strongly denied a suggestion that there is a boardroom rift between Bernd Pischetsrieder, the BMW chairman, and Wolfgang Reitzle, a board member who had been his main rival for the top job five years ago.

When BMW bought Rover from British Aerospace, Mr Reitzle had suggested keeping only the MG, Mini and Land Rover models.

This strategy would have avoided most of the problems now faced, industry observers believe.

The cost-cutting package that will be confirmed today is likely to be slightly less radical than BMW wanted.

Although Saturday working — the biggest sticking point in the negotiations —

will be introduced across the group, it is thought to be only on a voluntary basis. The working week will be cut from 37 hours to 35 hours over two years.

There will be mass meetings at Rover car factories on Thursday and Friday. Balloting of the union members for approval of the deal is likely to start on Friday.

Meanwhile, Peugeot, the French carmaker, is to take on an extra 900 workers at its factory in Ryton, Coventry, to boost production of its new 206 hatchback. It said another 2,000 jobs should be created at suppliers in the region.

Peugeot said it was reaping the benefit of a flexible working agreement agreed two-and-a-half years ago. Output will increase from 2,500 cars a week to 3,400. The extra workers are needed to meet buoyant demand for the 206, Peugeot said.



John Simons, chief executive, revealed impending disruption

Cost of update hits Hazlewood shares

SHARES in Hazlewood Foods, the supermarket own-label specialist, fell 7 per cent when the group revealed that production would be disrupted early next year (Robert Cole writes).

The disruption would be caused by updating its range for more sophisticated tastes, hitting profits by up to £3 million in the year to March.

Profits for the six months to September 30 reported yesterday were flat at £19.6 million against a backdrop of "weakening consumer confidence".

The shares lost 10p to close at 132.5p. They touched 240p in July. The half-time dividend is 2.7p against 2.6p.

Tempus page 28

Cost of Sets hits exchange surplus

COSTS of setting up the Sets electronic trading system contributed to cutting the London Stock Exchange's first-half financial surplus by 14 per cent (Fraser Nelson writes).

The Exchange, whose share trading system processes 99.2 per cent of deals in London, made a surplus of £15.8 million (£18.3 million) for the six months to September 30.

However, it said that Sets, which was running throughout the period, had cut the cost of trading by up to 60 per cent for FTSE 100 stocks.

With low levels of trade during the volatile summer, trading income fell by 8 per cent. Overall income rose to £76.2 million (£70.2 million) as 147 companies joined the market — ten more than last time. However, this was offset by costs of maintaining Sets, setting up an alliance with Deutsche Börse and preparing computers for 2000.

The Exchange, owned by 270 merchant banks in the City, said its priority is to provide a market place — and not necessarily to make a surplus.

House price rises to slow, says Halifax

THE rate of house price inflation is expected to slow in 1999 to 4 per cent, from 5 per cent this year, as the economy weakens, reducing demand for properties. However, Halifax, which publishes its latest house price index today, does not predict a slump in the market in 1999. The bank believes that lower mortgage rates should lessen the impact of any deterioration in the economic climate. Gary Marsh, Halifax assistant general manager, said: "Housing remains highly affordable in the historical context."

The average house costs £72,586. This is 3.26 times national average earnings of £22,289. The average ratio is between 3.5 and four times average earnings but rose to as high as five times in May 1989. According to Halifax, prices fell by 0.6 per cent in November. The Nationwide house price index, released earlier this week, showed an equally gloomy picture with a rise of just 0.1 per cent in prices. The November decrease in the index comes after a rise of 1.3 per cent in October, but Halifax emphasised that it was the trend over several months that was important. Prices in the three months to November were 1.2 per cent higher than in the preceding three months.

Rentals boost Avesco

RENTALS of giant video screens during the World Cup helped Avesco, the television services group, to increase sales by almost 50 per cent in the six months to September 30. The group said its corporate and broadcast services division had a particularly strong first half. Turnover was £22.7 million (£15.2 million), with pre-tax profits before exceptional items up 12 per cent to £3 million. Fully diluted earnings were 16.1p a share (19.1p) and an interim dividend of 3.5p (3p) was declared.

Forminster warning

FORMINSTER, which holds the UK franchise for French fashion chain Kookai, became the latest in a succession of retailers to give warning on profits yesterday. Like-for-like sales in the first 43 weeks of the year were down 11 per cent and the company said "profits for the full year would be significantly below current market expectations". The shares fell 4p to 484p. Michael Rahamim, managing director, said Forminster would be taking a minority stake in the French Kookai.

GET aims to buy

GET GROUP, the electrical accessories supplier, lifted pre-tax profits to £2.94 million in the year to August 31, from £1.92 million. John Joseph, the chairman, said that GET was seeking bolt-on acquisitions, but no bids were on the table. He said its DIY products tended not to be hit by economic downturns. Turnover slipped to £40.76 million (£43.53 million) after cable products' selling prices fell. Earnings per share were 11.53p (8.33p). A final dividend of 2.75p (2.1p) makes 3.75p (3p).

Aries stake for Wagon

WAGON, the engineering company, is acquiring a 20 per cent interest in Aries Industries, the market leader for door systems in France, for FF80 million (£8.5 million). The acquisition was announced as Wagon reported a 6 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £11.2 million for the half year to September 30. Underlying earnings rose to 13.9p a share from 13.5p. The interim dividend is held at 7p. The shares rose 204p to 204p.

Caution at Amberley

AMBERLEY, the specialty minerals and chemicals group gave warning yesterday that pricing pressures would hit the company as its markets begin to feel the strain. Philip Kanas, chairman, reported pre-tax profits up by nearly 20 per cent to £3.1 million in the six months to September 30, as turnover increased 35 per cent to £32.8 million. But the company's shares fell 8p to 70p as Mr Kanas said: "It is prudent to expect a demanding period ahead as markets continue to soften."

Micro Focus change

MARTIN WATERS has departed as chief executive of Micro Focus, the software solutions company. He makes way for Gary Greenfield of Intersolv, the LIS company acquired by Micro Focus. The change coincided with news of a fall in underlying quarterly pre-tax profits to £1 million (£3.8 million). The company said results were hit by not having appropriate year 2000 products, a sales staff shake-up, merger-related integration issues and reduced IT spending by financial institutions.

SCS sitting pretty

SCS UPHOLSTERY yesterday eased the gloom in furniture retailing by reporting increases in sales per square foot, margins and profits. Pre-tax profits rose by 30 per cent, to £4.1 million, in the year to September 30 after excluding costs of SCS's flotation 12 months ago. Mike Browne, chief executive, said that turnover rose 23 per cent, to £29.3 million, despite "generally unhelpful" trading conditions, and that more sites would be opened. The shares stayed at 614p, against a 148p high.

Leopold Joseph ahead

UNDERLYING profits rose 28 per cent at Leopold Joseph Holdings, the private banking group, in the six months to September 30. After non-recurring items pre-tax profits were little changed at £1.04 million (£1.02 million). Loans and advances to customers increased 7 per cent to £95 million. Earnings per share were 9 per cent higher at 14.65p and the interim dividend is 5p (4.50p). Robin Herbert, chairman, said, "I remain convinced that the current efforts will yield enhanced profitability."

| Bank | Buy | Sell | Bank | Buy | Sell |
|--------------|--------|--------|-----------------|--------|--------|
| Australia \$ | 2.71 | 2.54 | Japan Yen | 216.25 | 198.75 |
| Austria Sch | 30.55 | 33.90 | Malta | 0.61 | 0.62 |
| Belgium Fr | 60.82 | 55.56 | Netherlands Gld | 3.324 | 3.029 |
| Canada \$ | 2.643 | 2.480 | New Zealand \$ | 3.26 | 3.04 |
| Cyprus Cyp £ | 0.8888 | 0.7353 | Norway Kr | 1.91 | 11.93 |
| Denmark Kr | 7.116 | 10.27 | Portugal Esc | 207.54 | 276.51 |
| Finland Mks | 5.94 | 5.23 | S Africa R | 247.94 | 229.15 |
| France Fr | 9.79 | 9.01 | Spain Ptas | 247.94 | 229.15 |
| Germany DM | 2.842 | 2.853 | Sweden Kr | 14.19 | 13.09 |
| Greece Dr | 493 | 454 | Switzerland Fr | 2.428 | 2.211 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 13.61 | 12.41 | Turkey Liras | 512.02 | 483.27 |
| Iceland | 128 | 108 | USA \$ | 1.757 | 1.614 |
| Indonesia | 18528 | 10828 | | | |
| Israel Pr | 1.1729 | 1.0828 | | | |
| Italy Lira | 7.34 | 6.50 | | | |
| | 2328 | 2083 | | | |

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COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

It is easy to become biased about these mega-mergers. What with Exxon and Mobil creating a \$200-billion giant which is the world's biggest oil company, and Hoechst and Rhône-Poulenc combining for what, by some measures, would be the world's largest pharmaceutical group, it is easy to forget that Total is paying \$13 billion for Petrofina — \$3 billion more than Deutsche paid for Bankers Trust on Monday.

Why are we seeing these giant deals at the moment? Unlike in the mid-1980s or the early 1990s, they are not a factor of benign economic conditions and an ever-rising stock market. We are in uncertain times with the banking markets crying out for consolidation and the oil price hovering just above \$10 a barrel. That is why Exxon and Mobil, BP and Amoco, Bankers Trust and Deutsche, Citicorp and Travelers and a host of others are huddling together for warmth.

Relative to all of this, the life sciences merger of Hoechst and Rhône-Poulenc looks like a well-planned deal. Unlike our own dear Glaxo Wellcome and Smith-Kline Beecham, the two companies were able to provide extensive detail of who will manage what business, and how they will rank in the various pharmaceutical and agrochemical markets. Despite Hoechst's stronger position in pharmaceuticals, the two sides agreed a 50-50 deal, and

R-P's Jean-René Fourtou and Hoechst's Jürgen Dormann were yesterday falling over one another to express the depth of mutual understanding and excellent team spirit that has already been established between the management teams. They have even had time to dream up a new name, Aventis, and design a logo.

The group will be spending \$3 billion a year on R&D, 80 per cent of that in pharmaceuticals. With perhaps 10,000 jobs to go, the estimate that the deal will produce annual savings of \$1.2 billion will probably prove conservative. Aventis will also have 18,000 drug sales representatives to push its products. And Aventis Agriculture will be the world leader in crop protection.

That should not obscure the fact that the merger is a reflection of the weakness of Hoechst and Rhône-Poulenc, not of their strength. Neither company punches its weight in pharmaceuticals, and they lack the blockbuster drugs of the industry's true leaders. The deals that led Hoechst to buy Marion Merrell Dow in 1995 and Roussel Uclaf in 1997 have not stopped the German group having the lowest operating margin among the world's top ten

drug companies. The integration of those purchases is still far from complete. Now Rhône-Poulenc's chemists are pouring Rhône-Poulenc Rorer and Pasteur Merieux Connaught into the mix, as well as its crop protection and animal health operations. Despite the will of the senior management, Franco-German tensions could hamper efforts to build a single culture — which was always going to be the most difficult job.

BMW rues the day it bet on sterling

Rover is shedding 2,500 jobs in Birmingham; Peugeot is adding 900 down the road at its Ryton plant in Coventry. How convenient. But it seems an unhappy coincidence.

Rover's British name still makes people think of it as more British than long-established Ford or newly arrived Toyota. And it does go some way to explaining the contrast. Rover is suffering because the rise of sterling made its export drive unprofitable. Companies, such as Peugeot, that supply mainly imports have been having a great time.

Ryton was once the pulsating heart of the Rootes Group, with a portfolio ranging from Hillman's tiny Imp and sensible Minx, via the sporty Sunbeam Alpine to the vast Humber Super Snipe. In 1998 an extra shift at Ryton will bring employment there to about 3,100.

In the scheme of things, this is a modest advance. Rover will still employ about 36,000 after the cuts and Ford is having to cut output by more than Ryton's total. Congratulations nonetheless to Peugeot's British management, which introduced more than two years ago the flexible hours just negotiated at Rover's old Austin factory at Longbridge.

At DM2.77, the level of sterling is still hitting any manufacturer basing European operations in

the UK. Rover is worst off because its cars are made only here. There is no escape.

That wrinkle is another chasm between reality and any strategic vision that BMW had for Rover in 1994, when it bought the tattered flagship of British motor manufacturing, Bernd Pischetsrieder, who took the wheel at Munich just as the great motoring boom was fading, still hoping that Rover will make money by 2000. His colleagues are ever more dubious. Losses at Rover had been coming down nicely, but will balloon like an inflating airbag as hopes crash this year.

Rover losses, once seen almost as a badge of honour for long-term strategists, are now the subject of emergency meetings of BMW's supervisory board. Herr Pischetsrieder's position is weakening as others dissociate themselves from his Rover project. In Birmingham, Walter Hasselkus, who came as a troubleshooter, is now surrounded by new trouble-

shooters. If he keeps his job, in his beloved England, it may be only because no one else from BMW is keen to go out on a limb that may yet be severed.

Productivity gains help, but the whole world motor industry still faces a tough three years ahead. There is worse to come.

Don't forget the divi

On a day when the FTSE 100 lost 206 points for little apparent reason, it is ironic that Merrill Lynch should publish research into the factors used by leading investment managers when judging the value of shares. With each wild swing the leading indices' relationship with fundamental corporate strength gets weaker and weaker.

According to the Merrill research, return on equity is now the measure of value most used by investment managers. ROE pushes the dearth below price/earnings ratio into second place. Moreover, Merrill says that dividend yield, once so popular, is now "basically unused".

Of course, good investment managers use a wide variety of

benchmarks when assessing value. Return on equity, along with other measures, brings a rigour to the analysis of corporate performance missed by more traditional earnings and dividend ratios. But investors need to be aware that some more fashionable benchmarks are also open to manipulation by companies. Lack of consistency in preparation of ratios can mislead, especially in comparative analysis.

Fundamental analysis of value is now much less important than sentiment and liquidity anyway. But there is a danger that new valuation techniques are being used to justify share prices where it should be the other way round.

It is time to go back to basics, and dividend yield, for one thing, deserves to be taken more seriously than at present.

A contrary Toon

WHEN Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd resigned from Newcastle United's board they departed with all the good grace of Paul Ince being sent off for England. And now, only eight months later, they are trying to be re-elected, in direct contravention of the undertakings that they, as representatives of the majority shareholders in the football club, gave to the rest of the board. Sorry, Mr Hall and Mr Shepherd. If you want to run Newcastle as a private company, take it private.

Up to 10,000 jobs to go with creation of Aventis

By PAUL DURMAN

AN ESTIMATED 10,000 jobs look set to go as Hoechst of Germany and Rhône-Poulenc of France set about creating Aventis, whose \$20 billion (£12 billion) of annual sales will make it the world's largest life sciences group.

Some of the pain will be felt in the UK, where Rhône-Poulenc, which bought Fisons three years ago, employs 2,750 in its pharmaceuticals and plant protection businesses. Hoechst, which owns Hoechst Marion Roussel (HMR), has 2,000 UK employees. Jean-René Fourtou, chairman of Rhône-Poulenc, and Jürgen Dormann, who heads

Hoechst, were keen to emphasise that redundancies would be handled in a "socially responsible" manner after consultation with unions. But Aventis is seeking to achieve annual savings of \$1.2 billion over the next three years.

Aventis will be a jointly owned company that will comprise HMR and Rhône-Poulenc Rover in pharmaceuticals; Pasteur Merieux Connaught in vaccines and the loss-making Celanese in blood products. Aventis Agriculture will be formed around Hoechst Schering AgrEvo and Rhône-Poulenc Agro. In an effort to overcome

national tensions and build a genuinely European company, Aventis will create a new headquarters in Strasbourg, on the French side of the border with Germany.

Aventis Pharma will leapfrog Glaxo Wellcome to become the world's second largest drug company — its biggest on some measures. It will spend \$2.4 billion a year on research and development, and will have 30 new drugs in late stage development. Aventis Agriculture will also be world leader in its markets, with \$4.5 billion of crop protection sales. The deal will leave Hoechst and Rhône-Poulenc owning

specialty chemicals and other businesses that are to be sold over the next three years, allowing a full merger of the two stock market-listed companies. The companies will be renamed Aventis Hoechst and Aventis Rhône-Poulenc and will be managed by a common team of directors.

M Fourtou said the deal was based on a close personal understanding between himself and Herr Dormann, who will chair the Aventis management board. M Fourtou said a deal had been under discussion since Herr Dormann invited him and his wife on holiday three years ago.

Kenwood slides 16% on warning

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

A PROFITS warning from Kenwood Appliances, which has been affected by a sharp downturn in UK and Asian sales, sent its shares falling nearly 16 per cent yesterday.

The company said "prospects have worsened in the UK since mid-summer with declining consumer confidence resulting in reduced sales and destocking by customers".

The company forecast that its second-half profits will be no higher than those made in the first half. In the six months to October 2, pre-tax profits before exceptional items fell from £2.2 million to £900,000. Sales were down from £81.5 million to £73.4 million. The company will not be paying an interim dividend.

Kenwood, which has reduced its workforce by about 20 per cent to 2,346, is introducing a range of new products, but most will not be in the shops until after Christmas.

Despite continuing speculation, Kenwood said it had not received any approaches from potential buyers.

Pifco has long been interested in Kenwood, although it has never tabled a formal bid, while Martin Naughton, the Irish owner of Morphy Richards, has built a 3.5 per cent stake. The French company Moulinex is also rumoured to be interested.

The shares closed at 104p, down 19 1/2p.

Carlton counts cost of digital

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

CARLTON Communications, the television group, has blamed a fall in annual profits on a £28 million investment in the launch of its digital television service.

Profits for the year to the end of September came in at £312.1 million compared with £316.3 million last time.

Excluding Carlton's 50 per cent share of the start-up costs on ONdigital, the digital terrestrial service launched last month, pre-tax profits grew by 7 per cent to £340 million.

Michael Green, chairman, said that with ONdigital a licence had already been turned into a new business. "Early indications are of strong demand from the public," Mr Green said.

Three of the four Carlton divisions — television, video and film — all increased profits, but the strong pound and weakness in Far Eastern markets cut profits from the sale of professional broadcasting products such as Quantel by more than half from £52.3 million to £22.8 million.

In the television division Carlton lifted operating profits 7 per cent to £160.6 million. Video increased operating profits 20 per cent to £81 million.

Adjusted earnings rose 8 per cent to 32.6p a share. The total dividend is lifted 10 per cent to 13.65p with a final of 8.25p. The shares fell 9p to 478p at the close yesterday.

Tempus, page 28



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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Blue chips bear brunt of sharp price correction

SHARP overnight falls in New York and Hong Kong had investors running for cover at the start of trading in London.

After the strong performance of the past few weeks, some profit taking was inevitable. But the severity and speed of the correction caught many investors on the hop. Leading shares had attracted the lion's share of institutional support in the past fortnight that has lifted the market almost 8 per cent. Yesterday they bore the brunt of the sell-off.

Another gloomy survey from the Confederation of British Industry further dented sentiment.

The FTSE 100 index lost ground throughout the day closing just above its low point. It finished 206.4 down at 5,537.5 as the Dow Jones industrial average struggled to par back opening losses. Total turnover topped more than a billion shares. The FTSE 250 index also shed 80.3 at 4,821.4.

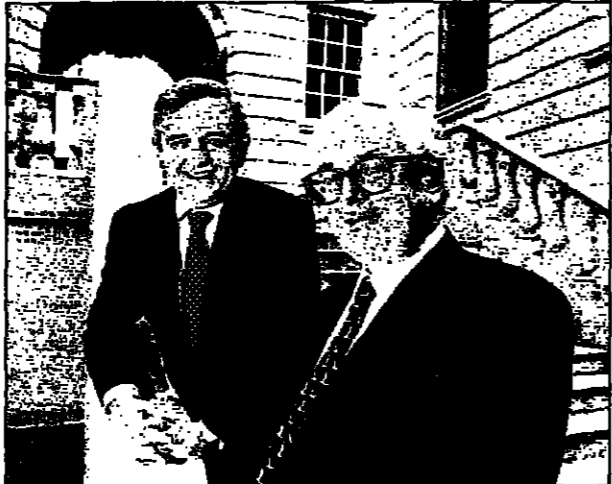
Of the top 100 companies, only five ended the session in positive territory. They were TetraPac, up 2p to 133p, Railtrack, up 17p to £16.80, Marks & Spencer, up 34p to 415p, National Power, 2 1/2p better at 518p, while vague bid talk lifted EM1 4 1/4p to 365 1/4p.

The heaviest falls were seen in Associated British Foods, 57p to 555 1/4p, Sema Group, 45p to 450p, GEC, 37 1/2p to 458p, ahead of results. Securicor, 36p to 452p, Diageo, 44 1/2p to 634 1/2p, and BTR, 8p to 116p.

The market's sudden turn of fortune weighs heavily on Associated's fund manager, off 4 1/2p to 452p. But there were also losses among other financials with HSBC down 10 1/4p to £15.36 reflecting the overnight losses in the Far East and some cautious comments from Credit Lyonnais, the broker. Losses were also seen in Royal Bank of Scotland, 57p to 856p, Sun Life & Provincial, 33p to 500p, and Lloyds TSB, 5 1/2p to 79 1/2p.

Savoy Asset Management, steady at 127 1/2p, may pale into insignificance when compared with the likes of rival fund managers like M&G Group, but no one can say it is not ambitious. It now has £365 million under management and is on the lookout for acquisitions. The group unveiled interim pre-tax profits of £272.630 to £30.461 and a first-time interim dividend of 2.25p.

Cortecs saw its share price



Chris Saunders, left, managing director and Norman Riddell, chairman of Savoy Asset Management, steady at 127 1/2p

almost halve with the price down 11 1/2p to 15p after the departure of Michael Flynn, chief executive. He quit the biotech company after it emerged that two of the company's three leading projects were not as advanced as had been previously indicated.

The news sent a shiver through the rest of the sector and brought back reminders of events earlier this year at British Biotech, down 2p to 37p. There were also losses for Cambridge Antibiotics, 11p to 236 1/2p, Celltech, 7 1/2p to 430p, Shire Pharmaceuticals, 8 1/2p to 422 1/2p, and Galen, 6p to 42 1/2p.

Another profits warning from Kenwood Appliances left the shares 19 1/2p lower at 104p.

Another day and another profits warning from the retail

sector. This time it was Forminster, owner of the Kookka chain of fashion outlets, down 4p to 48 1/2p. Like-for-like sales in the first 43 weeks of the year were down 11 per cent as the downturn in consumer spending continued to bite. Profits for the full year will be "significantly below" expectations.

A warning about fourth-quarter profits left Turampike 2 1/2p easier at 5p. Order books declined sharply in October with its export business badly affected. A gloomy trading statement left Amberley Group nursing a fall of 8p to 70p. The chemical company reported a further softening of its markets putting prices under pressure.

Another bid approach lifted City Site 4p to 30 1/2p valuing the property developer at £3.5 million. News that the chief executive had been taking advantage of the weak share price to top up his holding, lifted Robt H Lowe 4p to 4p. M. Carby has picked up 678,000 shares taking his holding to 15.13 million shares, or 11.56 per cent.

There was some positive news from Dixons Motors with the price rising 2p to 108 1/2p. The car dealer says full-year results will be significantly ahead of expectations. Shareholders will be rewarded with a 20 per cent increase in the dividend. However, rival Inchcape finished 2 1/2p easier at 122 1/2p after Merrill Lynch, the broker, cut its recommendation from "buy" to "hold".

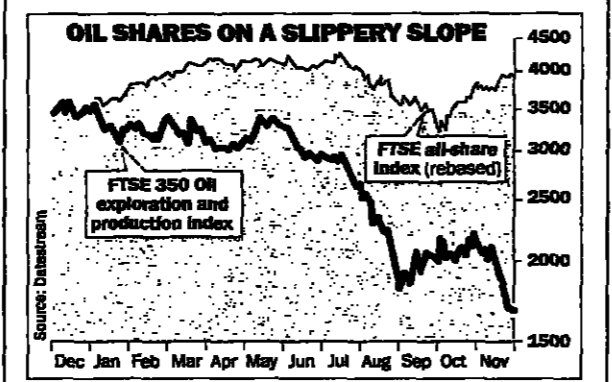
THE OIL SHARES ON A SLIPPERY SLOPE

The oil price currently stands at its lowest level for 12 years with no prospect of a rally in sight.

Last night the price of Brent crude for February delivery dipped below \$11 to close at \$10.55 a barrel.

Supply continues to outstrip demand on world markets and with little likelihood of oil agreeing to fresh production cuts, the outlook for the oil sector remains gloomy. As a result, oil companies are looking to merge to cut costs in the hope of defending profit margins. The exploration companies were marked lower with Enterprise Oil down 15p to 318p, Lasmo 7 1/2p to 132p, Ranger 5 1/2p to 292 1/2p, XCL 7 1/2p to 167 1/2p, and Cairn Energy 4p to 110 1/2p.

Merrill Lynch, the broker, has reduced its recommendations for Enterprise, Cairn and Lasmo. Credit Suisse First Boston has also cut its recommendation for Lasmo from "buy" to "hold" pointing to its capital expenditure programme.



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New York (midday):
 Dow Jones 9001.26 (-24.97)
 S&P Composite 1164.73 (-11.0)

Tokyo:
 Nikkei Average 14825.41 (-42.28)

Hong Kong:
 Hang Seng 9975.86 (-426.47)

Amsterdam:
 AEX Index 1048.73 (-51.80)

Sydney:
 All Ordinaries 2734.11 (-39.2)

Frankfurt:
 DAX 4761.73 (-249.87)

Singapore:
 Straits 1768.70 (-47.85)

Brussels:
 CAC-40 3207.81 (-74.44)

Paris:
 CAC-40 3688.34 (-105.04)

Zurich:
 SMI 1307.50 (-64.98)

London:
 FTSE 100 5537.5 (-206.4)
 FTSE 250 4821.4 (-80.3)
 FTSE 1000 5532.8 (-80.3)
 FTSE 100 2828.82 (-102.25)
 FTSE All-Share 2541.41 (-83.49)
 FTSE 100 Financials 2508.20 (-72.90)
 FTSE 100 Industrials 1532.01 (-49.89)
 FTSE 100 Services 1114.27 (-43.43)
 Barclays 2798.8
 SEAD Volume 1195.58
 CAS 1.6252 (+0.0016)
 Geneva Mark 2773.8 (-20.88)
 Exchange Index 100.0 (-0.0)
 Bank of England official base (40m) 1.4370
 ESR 1.1970
 RPI 164.5 Oct (1.1%) Jan 1987=100
 RPI 161.9 Oct (2.5%) Jan 1987=100

RISERS:

| Stock | Close | Chng | Chng% |
|------------------|---------|---------|-------|
| City Site | 30 1/2 | +1 | +3.2 |
| Woolac | 204 | +20 1/2 | +11.1 |
| OS GP | 25 | +2 | +8.4 |
| Alkerm | 100 1/2 | +5 | +5.0 |
| Singapore M | 45 1/2 | +5 | +11.1 |
| RUB | 65 | +3 1/2 | +5.6 |
| Rank GP | 226 1/2 | +11 1/2 | +5.0 |
| RPS Group | 375 | +17 1/2 | +4.6 |
| Bioscience | 44 1/2 | +2 1/2 | +5.6 |
| Oxford Molecular | 56 | +2 1/2 | +4.6 |
| Down | 169 1/2 | +7 1/2 | +4.6 |
| Evans Oil | 41 1/2 | +1 1/2 | +3.7 |
| Truist | 100 | +10 | +10.0 |
| Statis & McEwen | 208 1/2 | +7 1/2 | +3.7 |
| Makler | 280 | +10 | +3.7 |
| Eng Chang Cl | 178 | +9 1/2 | +5.4 |
| Truist | 100 | +10 | +10.0 |
| BTG | 36 1/2 | +1 1/2 | +4.1 |
| Atlantic Telecom | 158 1/2 | +3 1/2 | +2.2 |
| Fluoride Res | 410 1/2 | +3 | +0.7 |
| Fluoride | 105 1/2 | +2 | +1.9 |
| Lambert | 150 | +3 | +2.0 |
| Premium | 132 1/2 | +2 1/2 | +1.9 |
| Medeva | 105 1/2 | +2 | +1.9 |
| RFC | 100 | +2 | +2.0 |
| Powdermill | 40 1/2 | +1 | +2.4 |
| Morison | 314 1/2 | +3 1/2 | +1.2 |
| Summer | 328 | +3 1/2 | +1.2 |

FALLS:

| Stock | Close | Chng | Chng% |
|----------------|---------|---------|-------|
| Conoco | 17 1/2 | -1 | -5.6 |
| ASW | 14 | -3 | -17.6 |
| Kenwood App | 104 | -19 1/2 | -18.7 |
| Core Group | 100 | -7 1/2 | -7.5 |
| British Gas | 127 | -19 1/2 | -15.3 |
| Mentair | 41 1/2 | -6 | -14.5 |
| Total Systems | 59 1/2 | -8 1/2 | -14.2 |
| Agro Petroleum | 19 1/2 | -2 1/2 | -12.5 |
| Alloy | 20 1/2 | -2 1/2 | -12.5 |
| Low & Bowe | 146 1/2 | -17 1/2 | -12.0 |
| Paramount | 17 1/2 | -2 | -10.8 |
| Artemis | 78 1/2 | -8 | -10.2 |
| Capita Group | 52 1/2 | -5 | -9.5 |
| Went | 100 | -10 | -10.0 |
| Schrod | 50 1/2 | -4 | -7.8 |
| AMVESCAP | 45 1/2 | -4 1/2 | -9.8 |
| AEA Tech | 73 1/2 | -6 1/2 | -8.7 |
| Lamont | 51 1/2 | -4 1/2 | -8.7 |
| Br Boron | 136 1/2 | -11 1/2 | -8.2 |
| CIAG | 136 1/2 | -11 1/2 | -8.2 |
| Copyright | 136 1/2 | -11 1/2 | -8.2 |
| Br Boron | 136 1/2 | -11 1/2 | -8.2 |
| Tactica | 44 1/2 | -4 1/2 | -10.0 |
| Guardian IT | 44 1/2 | -4 1/2 | -10.0 |
| Forminster | 48 1/2 | -4 1/2 | -9.3 |
| GEC | 48 1/2 | -4 1/2 | -9.3 |

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Hogg Robinson

IMAGINE you are a chief executive of an international company, suspecting that a major recession is just around the corner. You have to cut costs, but where?

The axe, it seems, is falling on first class business travel and the City imagines this is bad news for Hogg Robinson - which now manages more company travel budgets than anyone else in the world.

But the company is rapidly changing the way it does business and is being punished for being in the shape it once was. In the old days, it would charge straight commission on every ticket it sold. So first class travel was more lucrative than economy, and in hard times its clients just bought their own. It is now replacing this system with a flat fee. It is an arrangement which encourages Hogg to scout for good deals. But it also protects its revenues.

The success of this strategy was demonstrated yesterday. Its UK travel business, where almost 70 per cent is fee-based, lifted profits by 9 per cent. It was the commission-driven Nordic division which dragged down profits in the entire group.

With its main customers now also using its payroll and pension administration services, Hogg Robinson is much more resilient to a downturn than its share price suggests. At 8.3 times forecast earnings, they have been oversold.

Kenwood

THE consumer spending downturn has hit Kenwood Appliances even harder than feared, not just in Britain but also in the Far East and Eastern Europe.

Kenwood's legacy of management problems compounds the market drudgery and means it will not have its snazzy new products in the shops in time for Christmas. Kenwood, despite its strong brand name, looks likely to lose market share in the next few weeks.

One of Kenwood's problems is that its famous Chef machine is so robust that it rarely needs replacing. Kenwood is making efforts to crack the strangely fashion-conscious kettle and toaster market, but it faces tough competition.

Given the strength of the name and the weakness of the share price, it has to be only a question of time before Kenwood is bid for. Even if possible British buyers feel too weak to bid in this difficult market, French and German companies must be casting eyes across the channel.

There is a risk that foreign buyers will wait for more trading bid news from Kenwood before they make their move.

At this level the shares are a buy, but only for those with strong nerves.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

Join the Carlton club

IT HAS been an important and mainly positive month for Michael Green and Carlton Communications. On digital terrestrial services, launched on time although with a shortage of set top boxes. News of Ten is on the move clearing the way for a more aggressive, advertiser-friendly and profitable ITV schedule.

Moreover, the revaluation of ITV licences will save the company £15 million next year and £22 million the year after. The £2,000 a year Central licence is likely to be in place for another two years too. On top of that Carlton has hired 24-year-old Stephen Cain, the youngest chief executive in FTSE 100.

Uncertainty will continue to surround the positive elements for some time, however. On digital has to prove itself as a business although just by being there it is already worth

something. Even if it were to collapse it would be little more than an embarrassment to Carlton. The upside, however, is considerable. The uncertainty surrounding Stephen Cain will also take time to dissipate. He was introduced to analysts yesterday but perhaps wisely decided against saying anything. Michael Green has been telling people that Mr Cain is a serious player and no one's patsy. The word is that Mr Green did not make the soft choice from the shortlist. But within a year Mr Cain will have to prove he can be independent of Michael Green.

Against the uncertainties must be placed the continuing profits growth in television, film and video. With Carlton shares trading at a relatively meagre 14 times current year earnings per share estimates, the company is undervalued. Buy.

Hazlewood

HAZLEWOOD Foods has successfully distanced itself from commodity production by concentrating its fire on the manufacture of higher-margin goods such as chilled pizzas and cooking sauces. Consequently it should be able to avoid pain caused by such nasties as glut in pig meat or pressure in fish farms that afflict so many of its peers.

The company's shares rose strongly in response to the shift out of potentially hazardous activities. The realisation, however, that the change did not guarantee success in devilish markets has put the shares into reverse.

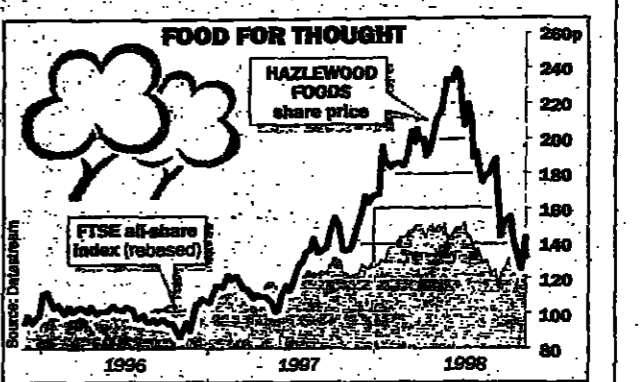
The weakness of the food production sector as a whole dilutes the attraction of even the strongest players. The inability to exert control over prices is the most troubling problem and while Hazle-

wood is better placed than Albert Fisher or Hillsdown, it still depends to an uncomfortable extent on superstitious buyers logging generously on its profit margins.

Hazlewood has to run fast to keep up with the changing expectations. Last year's value-added cottage pie is next year's unwanted, commoditised marginless cottage pie.

News that production is being reshaped to update the product lines and maximise efficiency is, therefore, welcome. What is less encouraging is that Hazlewood has not been able to do this without disrupting production.

The gearing is low and at 132 1/2p the shares give a safe looking gross yield of 7.3 per cent. Hold.



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COMMODITIES

LIFE

| Dec | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| Dec | 375.00 | 375.00 | 375.00 |
| Jan | 375.00 | 375.00 | 375.00 |
| Feb | 375.00 | 375.00 | 375.00 |
| Mar | 375.00 | 375.00 | 375.00 |
| Apr | 375.00 | 375.00 | 375.00 |
| May | 375.00 | 375.00 | 375.00 |
| Jun | 375.00 | 375.00 | 375.00 |
| Jul | 375.00 | 375.00 | 375.00 |
| Aug | 375.00 | 375.00 | 375.00 |
| Sep | 375.00 | 375.00 | 375.00 |
| Oct | 375.00 | 375.00 | 375.00 |
| Nov | 375.00 | 375.00 | 375.00 |

CRUDE OILS (Brent) FOB

| Dec | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| Dec | 10.55 | 10.55 | 10.55 |
| Jan | 10.55 | 10.55 | 10.55 |
| Feb | 10.55 | 10.55 | 10.55 |
| Mar | 10.55 | 10.55 | 10.55 |
| Apr | 10.55 | 10.55 | 10.55 |
| May | 10.55 | 10.55 | 10.55 |
| Jun | 10.55 | 10.55 | 10.55 |
| Jul | 10.55 | 10.55 | 10.55 |
| Aug | 10.55 | 10.55 | 10.55 |
| Sep | 10.55 | 10.55 | 10.55 |
| Oct | 10.55 | 10.55 | 10.55 |
| Nov | 10.55 | 10.55 | 10.55 |

ROBUSTA COFFEE

| Dec | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| Dec | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| Jan | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| Feb | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| Mar | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| Apr | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| May | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| Jun | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| Jul | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| Aug | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| Sep | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| Oct | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| Nov | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |

WHITE SUGAR (ROW)

| Dec | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| Dec | 245.00 | 245.00 | 245.00 |
| Jan | 245.00 | 245.00 | 245.00 |
| Feb | 245.00 | 245.00 | 245.00 |
| Mar | 245.00 | 245.00 | 245.00 |
| Apr | 245.00 | 245.00 | 245.00 |
| May | 245.00 | 245.00 | 245.00 |
| Jun | 245.00 | 245.00 | 245.00 |
| Jul | 245.00 | 245.00 | 245.00 |
| Aug | 245.00 | 245.00 | 245.00 |
| Sep | 245.00 | 245.00 | 245.00 |
| Oct | 245.00 | 245.00 | 245.00 |
| Nov | 245.00 | 245.00 | 245.00 |

MEAT & LIVESTOCK

| Dec | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| Dec | 45.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| Jan | 45.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| Feb | 45.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| Mar | 45.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| Apr | 45.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| May | 45.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| Jun | 45.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| Jul | 45.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| Aug | 45.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| Sep | 45.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| Oct | 45.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| Nov | 45.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |

ON LONDON GRAM FUTURE

| Dec | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| Dec | 73.00 | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| Jan | 73.00 | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| Feb | 73.00 | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| Mar | 73.00 | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| Apr | 73.00 | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| May | 73.00 | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| Jun | 73.00 | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| Jul | 73.00 | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| Aug | 73.00 | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| Sep | 73.00 | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| Oct | 73.00 | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| Nov | 73.00 | 73.00 | 73.00 |

LIFFE WHEAT

| Dec | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| Dec | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| Jan | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| Feb | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| Mar | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| Apr | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| May | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| Jun | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| Jul | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| Aug | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| Sep | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| Oct | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| Nov | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |

LIFFE POTATO

| Dec | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|-----|--------|--------|----------|
| Dec | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00 |
| Jan | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00 |
| Feb | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00 |
| Mar | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00 |
| Apr | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00 |
| May | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00 |
| Jun | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00 |
| Jul | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00 |
| Aug | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00 |
| Sep | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00</ |

What a way to run policy. The Sun and The Daily Mail whip up what one newspapered government official this week described as a "totally unnecessary frenzy" about European taxes.

Britain is losing the European tax battle

France's Economic Minister, supported him. One is left with the conclusion that the revelation on duty-free, coming as it has in the middle of the current furor in Britain about tax harmonisation, is no more than a cheap stunt to take attention away from the serious fight over taxation now in prospect and the question of whether the Government is doing a good job of defending Britain's interests.

They show every sign of crumbling in the face of Oskar Lafontaine's arrival on the political scene and appear to be buying into the mild blackmail being perpetrated by Mario Monti, the European Commissioner in charge of taxation.

long laboured under the illusion that only by compromise and engagement can Britain help to shape a Europe that is in its interests. They have thought that they are clever enough to play with the big boys and negotiate Britain into a position of strength, even outside the Euro 11.

Deal-making and compromise on tax now seem to be hopelessly inappropriate strategies. Where does Britain go from here? The one factor that Britain has always felt was in its favour was that the large European economies would rather the UK was inside the euro and would give ground.

It is hard to escape the conclusion from yesterday's events that new Labour's pro-EMU campaign lies in tatters. However fervent many senior members of the Government are in favour of joining the euro, the odds on winning a referendum on the subject lengthened dramatically yesterday.



seems to be one of treading softly, compromising where possible and building alliances, as Mr Blair's spokesman said yesterday.

Spirit of humility marks shift in French attitudes to Europe

Adam Sage reports on the new-found equanimity displayed by Paris politicians

Last week Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the left-wing Finance Minister of France, offered an official response to the dual Anglo-German initiatives on European stock market and aerospace integration.



Initial French horror at the prospect of an alliance between the Frankfurt and London stock exchanges soon subsided

Market analysts pinched themselves, and reread his comments. Where was the traditional determination to sabotage any European projects that did not emanate from Paris?

years ago, M Thomas's analysis appears spot on. Yesterday's announcement, for instance, that Total, rather than Elf-Aquitaine, is to buy Petrofina, the Belgian group, came after discussions in which the Government seems to have been nothing more than an observer and certainly did not intervene to help its national champions as it usually does.

DASA, its German partner, were working towards a merger that would give them a 57.9 per cent share in the Airbus consortium and an equally dominant position in key sectors ranging from missiles to satellites.

and making PR announcements. Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, telephoned Tony Blair to demand that the British Government stop the project — a reflex reaction that says much about the longstanding French custom of interfering in business.

in London and Bonn. Yet if the BAe-DASA merger does go ahead, France will live with it, and even try to work with it. M Strauss-Kahn said that the British-German axis could provide a "useful" path for others to follow.

Do you Ken?

MARTIN TAYLOR was to have been at a seminar tomorrow at the Brewery, Chiswell Street, interviewed by Radio 4's John Humphrys. The seminar is organised by Barclays Global Investors, and, no great surprise here, Taylor will not be turning up. A pity. It would have been interesting to hear his up-to-date views on "the changing face of financial services in Europe".



Ken Livingstone will be an unexpected guest today.

A READER sends in a brace of jargon phrases from Silicon Valley. An "elevator status ment" is a summary of what your high-tech company actually does, explained in the time it takes to ride an elevator up or down and therefore in terms comprehensible to the average venture capitalist.

Hedged bet I KNOW that an economist is someone who can hold two opposing views before breakfast. But I had no idea of the deep divisions that can open up within the same firm.

Cut its cloth WHO said the following, and when? And what was the consequence? "My directors and I fully support [Company A] in this acquisition, as we believe that this provides the best way of securing the long-term future of the company."



New Zealand next April. Congdon, his colleague at Lombard Street Research, thinks that inflation will rise again in the US next year, which is apparently now a Good Thing and will also entail renewed economic growth.

The two will square off at Skinner's Hall in the City at a seminar for clients. Who, I suppose, can comfort themselves that at least one of them must be right.

ELDRIDGE POPE, the excellent if traditional Dorset pub operator, has turned his back on the City and on its Bar Excellence chain. This is one of those large, chrome and stripped wood concepts that seem to be taking over. Eldridge has sold up to Marston's, which owns another one, Pitcher & Piano.

And "this merger [with Company B] will help us in exceeding our customers' expectations and will enable us to grow and strengthen our overall business".

ELDRIDGE POPE, the excellent if traditional Dorset pub operator, has turned his back on the City and on its Bar Excellence chain. This is one of those large, chrome and stripped wood concepts that seem to be taking over.

So the two Bar Excellence pubs, in Cornhill and close to St Paul's, will shortly reappear as Pitcher & Piano's. I undertake some research on behalf of my readers.

YOUNG colleagues tell me these are more associated with areas such as the Fulham Road, and folk seeking a lively evening's entertainment and, possibly, lasting friendship. In the City, how can they fail?

Poor try

THE debate on ITV's "dumbing down", after the decision to move News at Ten, will continue. But I have a contribution that should clinch it. The 1999 Rugby World Cup is being shown exclusively live on the network, and a marketing pack is doing the rounds of the advertising agencies.

MARTIN WALLER



Just jute, jam tomorrow and jilted investors

Tomorrow, at the Excel-Hotel next to Glasgow Airport, a motion will be put forward for the removal of the chairman, managing director and two other directors of Titaghur, a small Scottish jute company that lost its Stock Exchange listing nearly nine years ago.

It was a launch, the rocket did not get very high. Participants spoke about a host of technical issues and avoided the key questions of structure and ownership. Hopes rather than plans emerged, and European integration remains a long way down the line.

When we came to Europe [from America] in the 1960s, the French were very prickly about what they saw as matters of principle," Mr Horne said. Now, as they finally accept that you cannot buck the market, they are less so, he added.

The story starts more than ten years ago when Mr Brealey, a businessman from Lincolnshire, took control of Titaghur, one of Dundee's oldest companies that had been involved in jute production since 1833.

Time passed and shareholders became increasingly unsettled until the latter part of 1997 when Titaghur was facing a financial crisis. Mr Brealey, who by then had left Sheffield United, had a legal battle with his brother and expanded the company in unexpected ways until it owned a 16,500 acre estate on the Knoydart Peninsula in western Scotland.

He turned to an old friend, Graham Avery, for help. Mr Avery was no stranger to con-

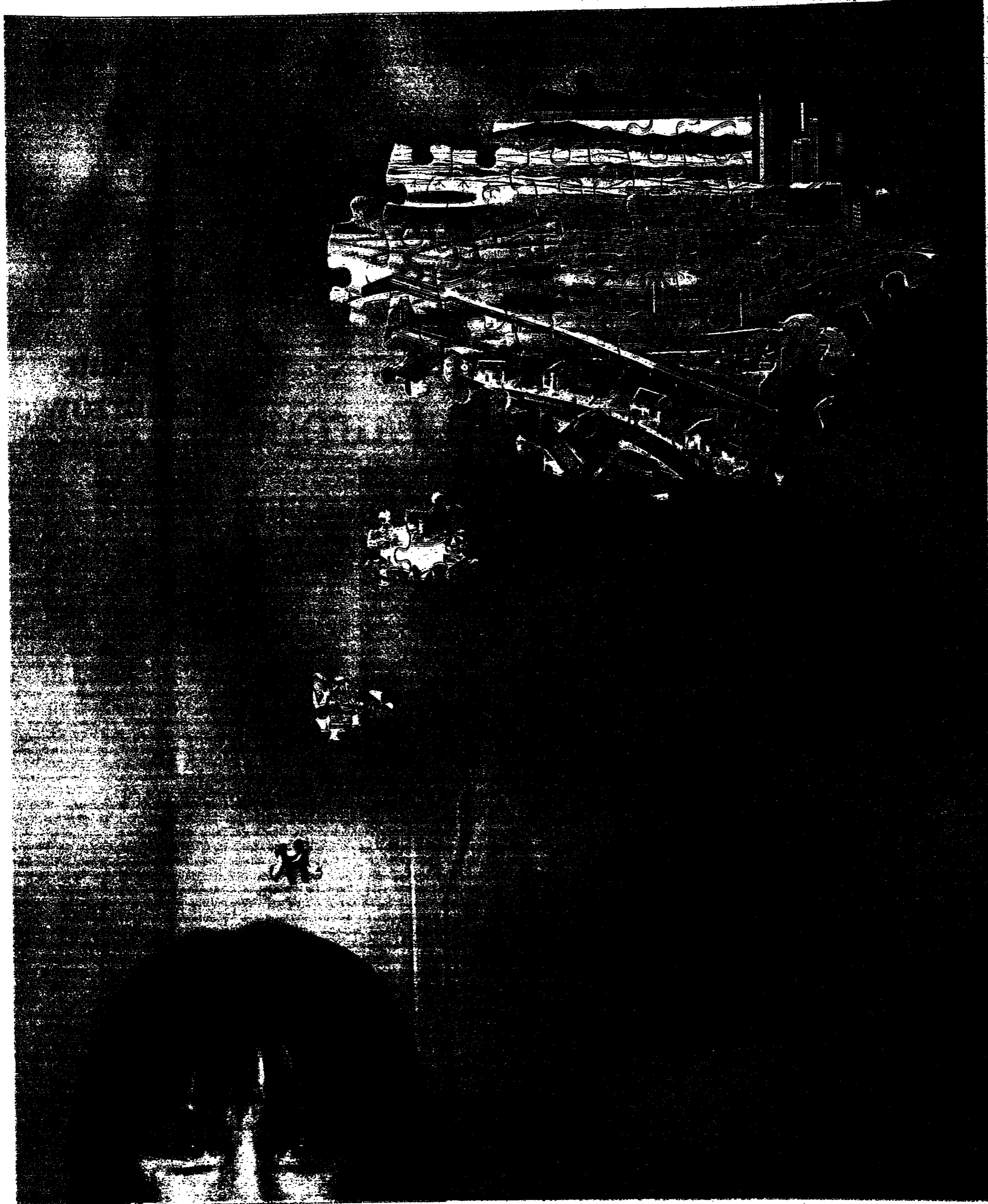
troversy, having run WB Industries, a firm investigated by the West Midlands fraud squad over property deals involving Stephen Hinchliffe.

Before the bankruptcy order was enacted, Mr Brealey used the shares he had in Titaghur — including those that the company was trying to recover — to convene an extraordinary general meeting at which he proposed that Mr Avery and three other directors be removed.

Mr Brealey's trustee in bankruptcy says he has given no authority for these shares to be used to try to oust Mr Avery, and Titaghur is now trying to have tomorrow's meeting called off before shareholders can vote. However, most Titaghur shareholders have probably given up hope of seeing their money and no longer care who runs the company.

JASON NISSÉ

INTEREST RATE CHANGES EFFECTIVE 30 NOVEMBER 1998. Table with columns for 90 Day Notice and Two Year Deposit Bond, and rows for various deposit amounts and rates.



Imagine a world which gets progressively cleaner.

Imagine a world where city planning actually improves the quality of people's lives.

Imagine a world where new forms of communications technology are more user-friendly.

Vivendi has already imagined this world. What is more, we have begun to build it.

Our water companies are continually improving the quality of supplies to more than 80 million people around the world. Our waste management systems encourage recycling. Our power-generating

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Nomura launches Unique Pub estate towards £1bn float

By DOMINIC WALSH

THE groundwork was laid yesterday by Nomura International, the Japanese-owned securities house, for a £1 billion flotation of a big chunk of its tenanted pub estate. Some 2,600 pubs — culled from its Intreprenneur, Spring Inns and Phoenix Inns estates — have been put into a new vehicle, The Unique Pub Company, with a view to seeking a stock market listing in 2001. Yesterday's launch of Unique follows Nomura's decision last summer to split its estate into two, partly in an effort to limit the effects of continuing legal action by licensees who dispute the legality of the Intreprenneur beer tie. The 2,600 Unique pubs have all signed its SupplyLine agreement on beer and drinks, launched in March, which, with rental income, is the group's main source of revenue. Of the 1,200 Intreprenneur pubs that have not been

included in the Unique Pub vehicle, a third are engaged in litigation. A further 200 are free of tie, while the balance are earmarked for disposal. Giles Thorley, chief executive of Unique, said the chain would make earnings before interest and tax of about £80 million to £85 million in 1999. He said that, as its debt finance runs only until 2003, a refinancing would take place before the planned flotation. "A securitisation is one of those options," he added. Together with Guy Hands, Mr Thorley, 31, was a founder member of Nomura's Principal Finance Group in 1994. He negotiated the acquisition of Phoenix Inns in 1992 and became involved with Intreprenneur and Spring Inns after their acquisition in 1997. At flotation, Unique will have debts of between £700 million and £800 million, and an enterprise value of about £1 billion. He said that al-

though about 20 per cent of the properties were leased to pub groups such as Slug & Lettuce, Regent Inns and Yates Brothers, most were community pubs in the "Dog & Duck and Red Lion" category. Some £20 million is being invested in the current financial year. One way that Mr Thorley is hoping to boost profits is by extending SupplyLine. Current-ly the arrangement encompasses almost 150 beer, cider and other drink brands, but Mr Thorley said it could grow to include "everything from utilities to white goods to food and dry goods". The launch of The Unique Pub Company comes just a week after two court rulings supporting the validity of Intreprenneur's beer tie. However, Martin Moore, head of the licensees' action group, will tonight urge litigants to continue fighting at a meeting at the New Connaught Rooms, Central London.



Sign of the times: Giles Thorley hopes to introduce Unique pubs to the stock market in 2001

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dixon Motors back in gear

SHARES in Dixon Motors, the vehicle dealership group, finally got back into gear yesterday after the company delivered a bullish trading statement and indicated plans for expansion. Paul Dixon, the chief executive of the group, which is Britain's biggest motorcycle dealer, said: "With one month of trading remaining, we are confident of delivering an excellent result for 1998, which will be significantly ahead of 1997." Shares in the group climbed 12p to 108½p — having plummeted to a low of 96½p from a 12-month high of 298½p — after Dixon promised a 20 per cent increase in the total dividend to 9p. The company also announced that it was disposing of a Vauxhall franchise business in Leeds for £1.8 million. However, Dixon added that it was in negotiations with Vauxhall to get representation in other large cities. Dixon said: "We have worked closely with Vauxhall on market area strategy and we expect to develop other opportunities during 1999."

Character's sales soar

CHARACTER GROUP, the toy distributor, saw sales soar in its year to August 31, led by Disney tie-in products and Teleubbies merchandise. Pre-tax profits rose to £7.3 million, from £4.7 million, on turnover of £68.7 million (£41.3 million). Earnings per share were 25.79p (15.08p). A 3.95p final dividend makes 5.4p (4.5p). Richard King, chairman, said the group had felt the effect of the economic climate, but that he was "confident of continuing growth in the current year".

Network Tech down

THE economic downturn in South-East Asia took its toll on Network Technology, with the computer networking company reporting profits down by 70 per cent. The company said a change in the way it accounts for research and development expenditure also depressed earnings. Pre-tax profit was £1.01 million (£3.29 million) for the year ended September 30. Earnings per share were 1.03p (6.82p) and the final dividend is 0.55p, making a total dividend for the year of 1.10p (1.25p).

Jarvis wins extensions

RAILTRACK has granted Jarvis, the railway line maintenance group, a £27 million extension to two key contracts. Jarvis has won a two-year, £22 million extension to its contract for looking after track in the Liverpool to North Wales area, which had been due to end in April next year. The company has also been granted a two-year, £5 million extension to operate Railtrack's entire fleet of 11 trains for long-welded rail, which carry the metal to sites where new track is being laid.

Shaftesbury lifts value

SHAFTESBURY, the property company that owns a large part of London's Chinatown and Covent Garden, lifted net asset value to 193p a share from 162p in the year to September 30. The company reported pre-tax profits of £7.05 million before disposals, up from £5.33 million in the previous year. The disposal of non-core assets raised £2.12 million (£578,000). Adjusted earnings were 6.76p a share (4.73p). The total dividend is 2.5p a share (2.25p), with a final 1.05p.

Airtours buys Travelworld

By MANUS COSTELLO

AIRTOURS, Britain's second-largest tour operator, has joined the acquisition trail again, spending up to £12.9 million buying Travelworld Group, the UK travel agency. Travelworld, which last year had profits of £350,000 on turnover of £85.2 million from its 146 high street outlets, will cost Airtours an initial consideration of £4.2 million, of which £3.1 million is in cash and the remainder in loan notes. A further £3.72 million may become payable, based on performance targets that include selling more Airtours products. Last week Airtours an-

nounced plans to raise £250 million from a bond issue to invest in acquisitions in Europe or North America. The Travelworld acquisition, however, is to be funded from Airtours's own resources. David Crossland, Airtours chairman, said: "Only a small proportion of Travelworld's sales are of Airtours products and we expect Travelworld to be able to increase this proportion." Airtours, UK number two behind Thomson, has been the subject of merger rumours with its rival First Choice. It has spent almost £140 million on acquisitions since May.

Blockleys rejects £13m NBM bid

By ROBERT LEA

BLOCKLEYS, the builders' merchant, has rejected a £13 million bid from Natural Building Materials, saying that the offer lacked "commercial logic". The AIM-listed NBM yesterday bid 52½p a share in an all-paper offer for Blockleys, which saw its shares tick up 2p to 44½p. The offer values Blockleys at a 43 per cent premium to its closing share price last Friday. Vaughan McLeod, NBM chairman, said that he was making the bid having already received support from Blockleys shareholders. "As part of the consolidation of the building materials sector, Blockleys

would fit very well with the building products business of NBM," he said. Brian Taylor, chairman of Blockleys, said that the offer was "particularly unwelcome" and urged shareholders to take no action. He added: "It lacks any commercial logic and provides no apparent benefit to Blockleys's business." Mr Taylor said that NBM had so far received the support of only 10 per cent of Blockleys shareholders, adding: "NBM is paying scant regard to the underlying value of the company or to its future prospects, and is wholly unacceptable."

Cost cutting hits Hogg Robinson

By FRASER NELSON

FEAR of recession is prompting thousands of business travellers to give up first-class luxuries and settle for cheap seats, according to Hogg Robinson, the business travel agency. The world leader in business travel arrangements said clients were increasingly asking that their staff be put in second class to cut costs. Neville Bain, chairman, said: "The economic climate is placing pressure on the corporate need to travel. We are seeing a decline in premium passengers as they move from business class to economy, which has slowed growth."

Combined with pressure on margins in its Nordic businesses, profits in its core travel division fell to £10.8 million (£11.1 million) at the halfway stage. However, many of Hogg Robinson's clients are using other services that the firm cross-sells. Some 25 per cent of group profit is generated by payroll management, pension administration and independent financial adviser services. Group pre-tax profits were held at £14.5 million for the six months to September 30. The interim dividend is 4.25p (4.07p).

Tempus, page 28

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized into columns with headers for company names, share prices, and other financial metrics.

Advertisement for BT mobile phone services, featuring the text 'Let BT make it simple with Cellnet Business First.' and 'For your free mobile phone bill audit, call BT on Freephone 0800 800 800.'

Vertical sidebar on the right side of the page containing various advertisements for products and services, including 'BANKS', 'BEVERAGES', 'BREWERS, PUBS & REST', 'BUILDING MATERIALS', 'CHEMICALS', and 'CONSTRUCTION'.

Equities down as gilts move ahead

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| 1998 | Low | Company | High | Low | Company | High | Low | Company | High | Low | Company | High | Low | Company | High |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----------------------|------|-----|----------------------|------|-----|----------------------|------|-----|----------------------|------|-----|----------------------|------|
| ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 121 | 121 | Asahi Breweries | 121 | 121 | Asahi Breweries | 121 | 121 | Asahi Breweries | 121 | 121 | Asahi Breweries | 121 | 121 | Asahi Breweries | 121 |
| BANKS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 122 | 122 | Bank of America | 122 | 122 | Bank of America | 122 | 122 | Bank of America | 122 | 122 | Bank of America | 122 | 122 | Bank of America | 122 |
| BREWERIES, PUBS & REST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 123 | 123 | Beck's Brewery | 123 | 123 | Beck's Brewery | 123 | 123 | Beck's Brewery | 123 | 123 | Beck's Brewery | 123 | 123 | Beck's Brewery | 123 |
| DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 124 | 124 | General Electric | 124 | 124 | General Electric | 124 | 124 | General Electric | 124 | 124 | General Electric | 124 | 124 | General Electric | 124 |
| ELECTRICITY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 125 | 125 | Edison International | 125 | 125 | Edison International | 125 | 125 | Edison International | 125 | 125 | Edison International | 125 | 125 | Edison International | 125 |
| ELECTRONIC & ELECT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 126 | 126 | Intel Corp | 126 | 126 | Intel Corp | 126 | 126 | Intel Corp | 126 | 126 | Intel Corp | 126 | 126 | Intel Corp | 126 |
| BUILDING MATERIALS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 127 | 127 | Home Depot | 127 | 127 | Home Depot | 127 | 127 | Home Depot | 127 | 127 | Home Depot | 127 | 127 | Home Depot | 127 |
| CHEMICALS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 128 | 128 | Dow Chemical | 128 | 128 | Dow Chemical | 128 | 128 | Dow Chemical | 128 | 128 | Dow Chemical | 128 | 128 | Dow Chemical | 128 |
| ENGINEERING | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 129 | 129 | 3M Corp | 129 | 129 | 3M Corp | 129 | 129 | 3M Corp | 129 | 129 | 3M Corp | 129 | 129 | 3M Corp | 129 |
| CONSTRUCTION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 130 | 130 | Bechtel Group | 130 | 130 | Bechtel Group | 130 | 130 | Bechtel Group | 130 | 130 | Bechtel Group | 130 | 130 | Bechtel Group | 130 |
| DISTRIBUTORS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 131 | 131 | Walmart | 131 | 131 | Walmart | 131 | 131 | Walmart | 131 | 131 | Walmart | 131 | 131 | Walmart | 131 |
| ENGINEERING VEHICLES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 132 | 132 | Ford Motor | 132 | 132 | Ford Motor | 132 | 132 | Ford Motor | 132 | 132 | Ford Motor | 132 | 132 | Ford Motor | 132 |

| 1998 | Low | Company | High | Low | Company | High | Low | Company | High | Low | Company | High | Low | Company | High |
|--|-----|--------------|------|-----|--------------|------|-----|--------------|------|-----|--------------|------|-----|--------------|------|
| FOOD MANUFACTURERS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 133 | 133 | Unilever | 133 | 133 | Unilever | 133 | 133 | Unilever | 133 | 133 | Unilever | 133 | 133 | Unilever | 133 |
| HEALTHCARE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 134 | 134 | Pfizer | 134 | 134 | Pfizer | 134 | 134 | Pfizer | 134 | 134 | Pfizer | 134 | 134 | Pfizer | 134 |
| HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 135 | 135 | Woolworth | 135 | 135 | Woolworth | 135 | 135 | Woolworth | 135 | 135 | Woolworth | 135 | 135 | Woolworth | 135 |
| LEISURE & HOTELS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 136 | 136 | Marriott | 136 | 136 | Marriott | 136 | 136 | Marriott | 136 | 136 | Marriott | 136 | 136 | Marriott | 136 |
| MEDIA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 137 | 137 | Time Warner | 137 | 137 | Time Warner | 137 | 137 | Time Warner | 137 | 137 | Time Warner | 137 | 137 | Time Warner | 137 |
| INSURANCE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 138 | 138 | MetLife | 138 | 138 | MetLife | 138 | 138 | MetLife | 138 | 138 | MetLife | 138 | 138 | MetLife | 138 |
| INVESTMENT TRUSTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 139 | 139 | Fidelity | 139 | 139 | Fidelity | 139 | 139 | Fidelity | 139 | 139 | Fidelity | 139 | 139 | Fidelity | 139 |
| SHORTS (under 5 years) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 140 | 140 | Shorts | 140 | 140 | Shorts | 140 | 140 | Shorts | 140 | 140 | Shorts | 140 | 140 | Shorts | 140 |
| LONGS (over 10 years) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 141 | 141 | Longs | 141 | 141 | Longs | 141 | 141 | Longs | 141 | 141 | Longs | 141 | 141 | Longs | 141 |
| UNRATED | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 142 | 142 | Unrated | 142 | 142 | Unrated | 142 | 142 | Unrated | 142 | 142 | Unrated | 142 | 142 | Unrated | 142 |
| MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 143 | 143 | Mediums | 143 | 143 | Mediums | 143 | 143 | Mediums | 143 | 143 | Mediums | 143 | 143 | Mediums | 143 |
| INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 5% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 144 | 144 | Index-linked | 144 | 144 | Index-linked | 144 | 144 | Index-linked | 144 | 144 | Index-linked | 144 | 144 | Index-linked | 144 |

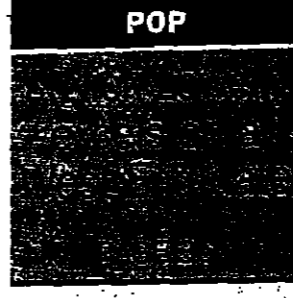
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| 1998 | Low | Company | High | Low | Company | High | Low | Company | High | Low | Company | High | Low | Company | High |
|-------------------------------|-----|------------------|------|-----|------------------|------|-----|------------------|------|-----|------------------|------|-----|------------------|------|
| PRINTING & PAPER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 145 | 145 | Graphic Arts | 145 | 145 | Graphic Arts | 145 | 145 | Graphic Arts | 145 | 145 | Graphic Arts | 145 | 145 | Graphic Arts | 145 |
| MINING | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 146 | 146 | BHP Billiton | 146 | 146 | BHP Billiton | 146 | 146 | BHP Billiton | 146 | 146 | BHP Billiton | 146 | 146 | BHP Billiton | 146 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| TELECOMMUNICATIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| TRANSPORT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 149 | 149 | British Airways | 149 | 149 | British Airways | 149 | 149 | British Airways | 149 | 149 | British Airways | 149 | 149 | British Airways | 149 |
| WATER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 151 | 151 | Alternative | 151 | 151 | Alternative | 151 | 151 | Alternative | 151 | 151 | Alternative | 151 | 151 | Alternative | 151 |
| RETAILERS, FOOD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 152 | 152 | Food Retailer | 152 | 152 | Food Retailer | 152 | 152 | Food Retailer | 152 | 152 | Food Retailer | 152 | 152 | Food Retailer | 152 |
| RETAILERS, GENERAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 153 | 153 | General Retailer | 153 | 153 | General Retailer | 153 | 153 | General Retailer | 153 | 153 | General Retailer | 153 | 153 | General Retailer | 153 |
| PHARMACEUTICALS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 154 | 154 | Pharmaceutical | 154 | 154 | Pharmaceutical | 154 | 154 | Pharmaceutical | 154 | 154 | Pharmaceutical | 154 | 154 | Pharmaceutical | 154 |
| SUPPORT SERVICES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 155 | 155 | Support Services | 155 | 155 | Support Services | 155 | 155 | Support Services | 155 | 155 | Support Services | 155 | 155 | Support Services | 155 |



MUSIC
Huddersfield
hears the new
Steve Reich
PAGE 35

THE TIMES ARTS



Once upon a time in New York

Three thousand miles from their base at Waterloo, actors from the Young Vic have taken up residence at the New Vic. The already impressive British presence on Broadway — Sam Mendes's productions of *Cabaret* and *The Blue Room*, Zoë Wanamaker in *Electra* — expanded ten days ago when the Young Vic company opened its six-week run of *Grimm Tales* at the New Victory, New York's first theatre for children.

Seven stories, including *Ashputtel* and *Little Red Cap*, adapted by the poet Carol Ann Duffy and directed by Tim Supple, have been taken from the Young Vic's 1994 and 1997 Christmas shows. *Grimm Tales* and *More Grimm Tales*. More than 60,000 people saw those productions in Britain, and Supple was acclaimed for fluid, inventive and visceral staging that scared and delighted children without ever patronising them, and provided rich entertainment for adults.

American critics have also warmed to his approach, with Clive Barnes of the *New York Post* praising "one of the best of all Christmas shows", and *Grimm Tales* is selling out. The events which explain the Young Vic's presence in a magnificently restored venue on 42nd Street, rather than in some off-Broadway studio, are not quite fairytale material, perhaps, but still involve an improbable transformation.

In the 1980s, the New Vic was home to a very different brand of entertainment: hardcore porn films. Built by Oscar Hammerstein in 1900 to present "all that is best in dramatic and lyric art", with a stage once graced by Mary

In what was once a porn cinema, a children's theatre is doing great box office. Daniel Rosenthal reports

Pickford and Lillian Gish, this bijou theatre had become a symbol of West 42nd Street's decline: glamour and talented performers replaced by sleaze and part-time crooks.

"When the New Vic's future was first discussed, there were drug dealers on 42nd Street who used to keep office hours on the pay phones," recalls Cora Cahán, president of New 42nd Street Inc, the non-profit organisation which owns the New Vic and six neighbouring theatres. "No parent would have wanted to bring their children here."

After 17 years as executive director of the Eliot Feld dance company, Cahán was appointed in 1990 when the 42nd Street Development Project, an immense city and state scheme to clean up and revitalise the area, began to take off.

New 42nd Street Inc took on the running of the New Vic and chose to focus on family entertainment. "The companies that were doing plays for kids in New York were not of a high standard," says Cahán. "We asked ourselves, how can New York call itself a cultural capital and yet not have a theatre for the young?"

The board voted to create a presenting house "as dignified as any other Broadway programme, which covers circus acts, puppetry, drama, dance

and educational work, is proving a huge success. "We are averaging 95 per cent attendance and all matinees are sold out until May," says Cahán. "Two thousand kids from [state] schools will see *Grimm Tales* for \$2 each or less. While drama has been pretty much expunged from the US curriculum, we are building Broadway's future audience."

Supple, who flew back to London this week for tonight's opening of the Young Vic's latest story-telling production, *Arabian Nights*, directed by Dominic Cooke, says: "The New Vic has really got it right in terms of the attitude of the staff, especially the ushers. It's a lovely environment for kids."

'Two thousand kids will see *Grimm Tales* for \$2 or less'

When two major construction projects on its block are completed next year, the New Vic will have a glorious opportunity to bring its programme to the attention of tens of thousands more parents, who will pass the theatre on their way to two "megaplex" cinemas and the new Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum.

The extraordinary nature of the New Vic's location strikes you most forcibly when you walk out of *Grimm Tales* and find yourself opposite the New Amsterdam Theatre, home to Disney's *The Lion King*. For the New Vic, theatre for children means \$6 seats and the pared-down, transparent illusion of *Grimm Tales*; for Disney, seats at up to \$80 and state-of-the-art technical wizardry. Kids are flocking to enjoy theatrical opposites on the same rejuvenated block — now that is a strange tale.

Arabian Nights is at the Young Vic (0171-428 6363)



Miracle on 42nd Street: a packed and youthful audience at the New Victory, New York's first theatre for children

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Too much of a good thing

By flexing its new playwrighting muscles, the Royal Court is making a mockery of establishments which feel they have to flaunt a star (preferably nude), or at least a star writer, to make an impact. Its latest festival of new plays by writers in their teens and twenties parades an embarrassment of raw talent. But at four hours and 20 minutes the first instalment — two shorts attached to two fully fledged plays — is simply an insane amount to ingest at one sitting.

There is an unevenness about some of the writing, particularly in the shorts. Ranjit Khutani's *B22*, about two Asian youths who meet on a park bench in Birmingham years after they've grown apart, is little more than a twinge of gay nostalgia. Ruwanthi De Chickera's *The Crucifix* is a sour, lopsided piece about a crippled sadistic white bastard who thumps his colostomy bag and shouts at his hapless, desperate wife.

But there is no lack of endeavour or quality in the performances, notably in Ed Hime's *About The Boy*, a fabulous black comedy about two brothers and

Trev has nightmares about recycling faces that he sees on station platforms to find one that might make sense of his own life, his maudlin father, Nev, and brother Kevin (Alex Palmer) conspire to make a hash of their own relationships, and subsequently their home life.

It is bitterly funny, and perhaps not best served by being in close proximity to Christopher Shinn's eerily assured play, *Four*, directed by Richard Wilson. Here the pride of being American, black, literate and successful on the Fourth of July is spookily undermined by Joseph Myddell's family man, Joe, who, rather than being at home with his daughter and sick wife, picks up a rent boy he meets on the Internet. It is what the performers, particularly Fraser Ayres's stilted Destine, find in the creases of Shinn's measured play that make it such a compellingly dark spectacle. If there's a theme to this disparate batch of writers, it is the emotionally needy. What all the plays really need, however, is more air.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Mad but not bad

The title given to an earlier version of this ambitious, mostly enjoyable musical was *Yusupov*, and the change is a wise one because, while everyone has heard of the mad monk with the hypnotic eyes and probably knows he ended up being killed, the name of his killer trips off few tongues. Prince Felix Yusupov is the man in question, and he is at the heart of the plot, and his



heart-searchings form the core of the music.

When first met he is performing as a transvestite singer in a St Petersburg nightclub, luring Prince Dimitri Romanov, his eventual co-conspirator, away from Princess Irina Romanov, the young girl who will one day become Yusupov's wife. Gowned in crimson and peering down his high-born, high-boned nose at the young couple, he unnervingly resembles Kit Hesketh-Harvey himself, writer of the lyrics. In one of his drag roles.

He turns out to be Hal Fowler, in witty command of the sexual ambiguities of his role, who proceeds to sing his caressingly world-weary num-

political spectrum. Leigh McDonald's MC even sings a cabaret song, attacking the German-born Tsarina, in which, with typical Hesketh-Harvey adroitness, Kaiser and adviser are rhymed with *Schüss*.

Directed by Ian Brown on a simple stage (designed by Peter McKintosh) of low back steps, strongly back-lit, too much is going on for the show's good. In particular, Yusupov's developing love for Irina is never convincingly integrated, although it is presumably intended to signal decency emerging from indecency while Rasputin goes the other way.

But We Can Love is the agitated song expressing Yusupov's self-questioning, but it turns into a love ballad for the sadly characterless Irina (Meredith Braun) where the tinkling notes reminded me of the *Chambermaid* I used to play on the family piano.

But James McConnell also writes impressive music, and in his *Kyrie*, where Jerome Pradon's strong Rasputin mesmerises the crowd with his stare, scaring voice and movements, the music clambers up the scale using every available semitone to reach the summit. Rasputin's death struggles are grimly exciting, and there is quality enough here to give at least two cheers for a new British musical.

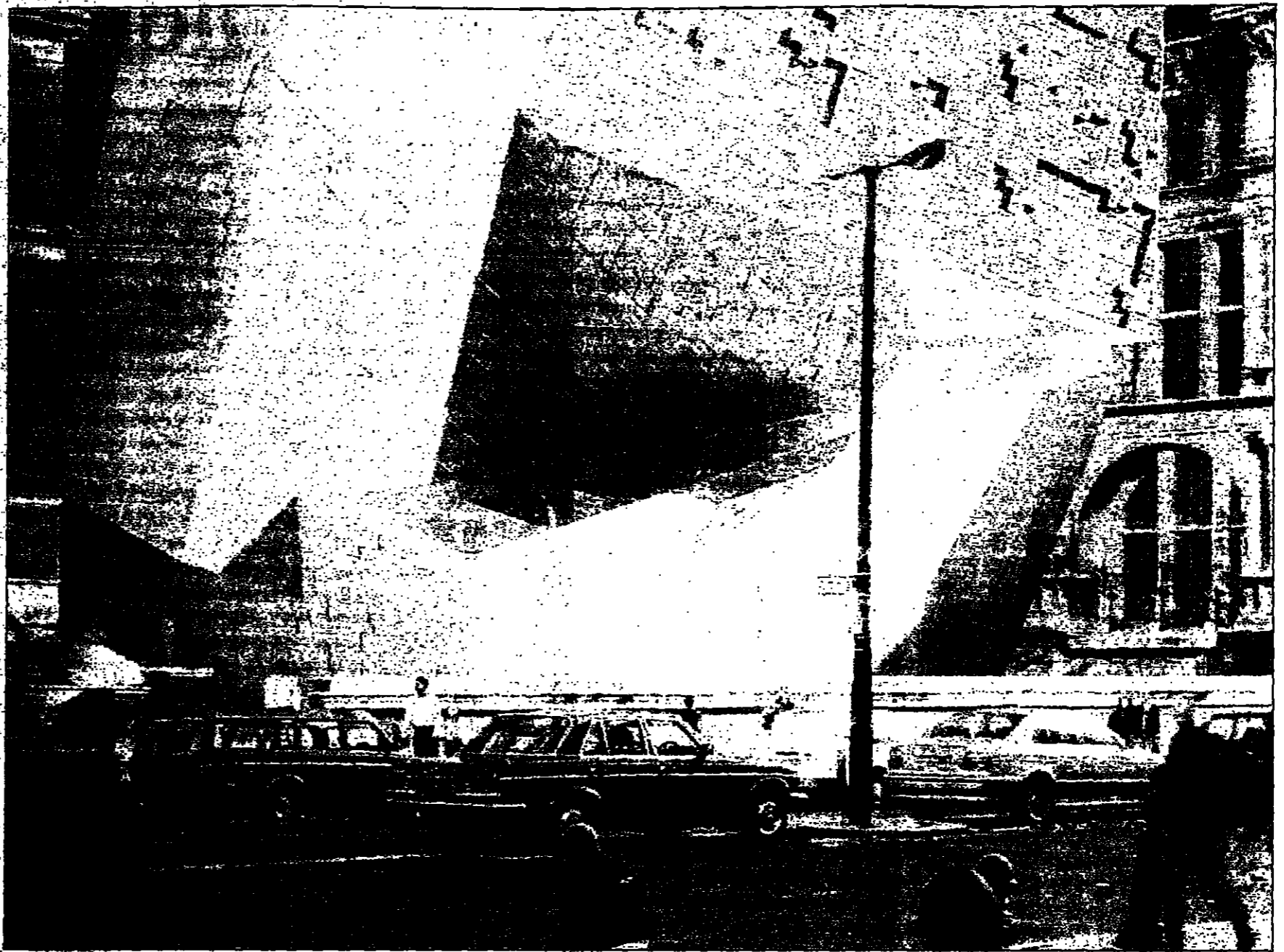
JEREMY KINGSTON

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2 1998
Ho

How the Spiral will stand up



Origin of Spiral: The unwound spiral wall about 500m long and 20m high is laid in a strip across a patch of specific fractal filling (bottom, left) then wound up into the building shape (top, left) that will eventually become the starting V&A extension (right, as depicted in a computer-generated image)



Thanks to the "V&A Spiral", as the extraordinary proposal for the Victoria and Albert Museum's extension is generally known, the architect Daniel Libeskind is the talk of London. Yet half the credit is due to his engineer collaborator, Cecil Balmond.

Balmond is a mathematical genius, born and raised in Sri Lanka, who works at Ove Arup & Partners, the world's leading structural engineers. Some 33 years ago, it was Arup himself who showed Cecil Balmond's design for the Sydney Opera House could actually be built. Balmond has played that role at the V&A.

"Without Cecil, Daniel would not have known it would work structurally," says the architecture critic Charles Jencks. "They came to my house. I saw them working on it together. You just can't say who held the pencil."

Jencks argues that the Spiral is one of ten paradigm-breaking buildings that will change the course of architecture. Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao is

one, of course. Others are Libeskind's Jewish Museum in Berlin, a Lille conference hall by the Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, Koolhaas's design for a Paris library, Jean Nouvel's Cartier Foundation in Paris and the new port building in Yokohama by Foreign Office Architects (no connection with Robin Cook). Balmond is involved in no fewer than five of these projects.

The 3-D cubism of the proposed V&A extension inevitably invites fibres about crumpled cardboard boxes. It's crumpled cardboard boxes labelled a spiral, the one thing it doesn't obviously resemble. The classic spiral, Balmond explains, revolves around a fixed centre, spiralling into ever wider orbits. At the V&A, he and Libeskind are seeking to use new geometries to express the criss-crossing of history.

Hence the idea of a spiral where the centre moves, the orbits jump. Balmond asks us to imagine drawing a circle and stopping at various points. Then we join up the points to make a polygon. Next we vary the radius and shift the centre



Marcus Binney meets Cecil Balmond (left), the engineering genius behind Daniel Libeskind's extraordinary V&A extension

of the circle. This way we start to achieve angular forms.

The structural triumph of the V&A Spiral is that each floor can be configured as the architect wishes without intrusive columns or internal structural walls. The way one wall supports another is shown in a drawing by Balmond that portrays stresses moving down the building, with hotspots highlighted in white and red. Balmond's mastery of geometry is also shown in the tiles

that will clothe the spiral. These are not a repeating pattern; instead the walls are clad in three tile shapes but they always dovetail.

Though Balmond is into free flow, he rejects the charge of arbitrariness. "I can draw a curve but as I'm an engineer I must find an inner reason for shapes that may not look rational." Here his brilliance as a mathematician guides him. He has written a book, *Num-*

ber Nine (a slim volume like Dava Sobel's bestseller, *Longitude*), tempting anyone who can do mental arithmetic to explore the world of numbers.

With the Dresden architect Peter Kulka, Balmond has won potentially his biggest commission yet: a proposed stadium for the European Athletic Championships in Chemnitz, Germany. Kulka felt that most stadiums were huge monoliths. He wanted a freer form. Balmond explains: "Usually a stadium is a series of concentric rings with parallel sides. The form is predictable in contrast to the fluid and random energies of the game itself."

Their first move was to take the three concentric ovals of arena, seats and roof, and rotate them away from each other. Then Balmond went further. The masts supporting the roof became separate from the geometry of the stadium and the seats.

Today's high-tech engineers usually like the logic of a structure to be evident. Balmond by contrast is happy with a sense of mystery. "I label my work informal. When architects

want to be interesting, they copy nature. I've gone deeper."

He has studied proportions and ratios from Greek, Italian, even Hindu architecture. "The Ancient Greeks had divine, arithmetic and geometric proportion," he says. "When you study their buildings you constantly find lively ratios."

He believes that computers are now allowing engineers to plot structures far more complex than ever before. "In the past you would have had to call a halt because of the time that was being absorbed. Today, seeking inspiration from turbulent patterns like water boiling in a kettle is a reality."

Now that Kensington Council has granted planning permission for the Spiral, the V&A is jubilant. The small question remains, of course, as to how the £70 million price tag will be met (it is equal to the \$100 million for the entire new museum at Bilbao). For most projects, lottery largesse is no longer available on this scale. But as Jencks says: "This is a seminal building. If the V&A doesn't build it, someone else will."

Reich fails his epic theme

NEW MUSIC

Steve Reich and his wife, the video artist Beryl Korot, crossed the Atlantic on separate flights to present their video opera *Hindenburg* at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. I can understand why. Korot's visuals are sophisticated in technique, powerful in imagery. If only Reich's music were as effective.

Horrible though the original footage and photographs of the *Hindenburg* explosion are, Korot's treatment of them has a peculiar kind of beauty. Again — although the scene featuring the election of General Hindenburg as the last president of the Weimar Republic and his appointment of Hitler as Chancellor does nothing more than add a superficial dimension of political correctness — the scene devoted to the construction of the Zeppelin is compiled with much visual wit. Presented like an uncommonly inspired website on a screen big enough to cover most of a wall in Huddersfield Town Hall, the video might have no meaningful ending, but it does have a poetic fascination about it.

The idea behind the collaboration seems to have been that Reich's score would pick up words and rhythms from the video and develop them as music which is both synchronised with the visuals and interesting in its own right. Disappointingly, even by his own minimalist standards, Reich's musical reactions are uninspired in quality and crude in technique. Ensemble Bash, the Smith Quartet and the voices of Synergy were all involved, under the direction of Nicholas Kok, yet nothing alluring, arresting or amusing emerged. The glaringly obvious allusion to the anvils of Nibelheim in the Zeppelin construction scene says it all.

Earlier at the festival the Arditi String Quartet and Ursula Oppens offered the same tribute works to Elliott Carter as they later presented in the Barbican's 90th birthday celebration of the composer (reviewed here on Monday). The mellowing of Carter has taken a long time. It seemed to be happening with the Fifth String Quartet (1995), when he was well into his eighties. Certainly, as the Arditi so effectively demonstrated, that work is more approachable than the formidable violin and piano Duo written 20 years earlier. But where late Carter really begins is in the Piano Quintet undertaken in anticipation of his 90th birthday and here receiving its British premiere.

In the Duo, piano and violin magnify their differences into antagonism. In the new Quintet the piano and the string ensemble not only agree to differ, but do so with humour and an indulgent tolerance of each other's special qualities.

Mellowness, incidentally, is not the same thing as maturity. The latter stage Carter reached at least as long as 50 years ago, when he wrote the Cello Sonata, performed here by the exceptionally well-adjusted duo of Rohan de Saram and Oppens.

GERALD LARNER

Ten years of ringing in the new

Hilary Finch joins in a contemporary music celebration in Birmingham

Birmingham's "Winter-ival" festivities are about to be augmented by a premature dawn chorus. Next week a 30-minute solo from a reed warbler and an exaltation of *Osceola Exotiques* will emanate from the city's latest performance venue, yet another newly restored red-brick warehouse rising from the canal basin.

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group is to blame; but then it has a lot to celebrate. The composer George Benjamin will be conducting the avian Messiaen, some Boulez, and his own *At First Light* as part of the extended tenth birthday party of an ensemble which is both progeny and emblem of the city's remarkable cultural renaissance.

During the past decade the BCMG, formed by players of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, has commissioned and performed 35 new works, collaborated with opera and ballet companies, shared gigs with jazz musicians, and scooped any number of recording and performance awards. The real prizes, though, are the CBSO Centre, a purpose-built 300-seat space; and a new music director in Thomas Adès, probably the country's most highly-cited young composer, conductor and pianist.

The space — and space is the word — matches Birmingham's new Symphony Hall in



Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, born on a coach one night when CBSO players "started to think all over again about the excitement of new music"

being based on acoustician Russell Johnson's favourite shoebox-with-galleries model. Sandy bricks and blond pine bounce the sound high into the air, warming and analysing it at once. The galleries form two wraparound corridor-floors of office space, recording studios, instrument stores and library.

The BCMG itself came into being as a result of overflow. Just four years into Simon Rattle's reign, it became clear that there was a demand for far more contemporary music activity than could be contained within any one symphony orchestra. And as Simon Clugston, artistic director of BCMG and until two years ago, a cellist in the CBSO,

points out: "Things can actually become destructive within an orchestra if you don't harness that enormous energy and direct it properly." One night, returning from Northampton after an inspiring performance of Beethoven's *Eroica*, a colleague of Clugston's pondered how much more extraordinary the very first performance of the symphony must have been. "We started to think all over again about the sheer excitement of new music. And we decided to form an ensemble."

Now, more than half of the CBSO, has played with BCMG. In a constant frenzy of schedule juggling, the players are committed not only to The

Series, boasting at least ten events each season in the new centre, but to a touring programme within Birmingham and beyond.

Colin Matthews, whose own BCMG commission *Hidden Variables* has just survived a barn in Wantage and a school in Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, says: "They're creating a repertoire. There's no other group that has played a piece of mine 20 times — and also taken up commissions other than their own and been known to play them three times in a day. To feel loved and wanted is, after all, every composer's dream."

One reason that dream can come true is the Arts Council's

New Audiences Fund; another is the National Lottery's Arts for Everyone scheme. But some of BCMG's new music has come into being without a penny from either source. One of the unique results of Clugston's compulsive lateral thinking is a scheme called *Sound Investment*. Any member of the public can buy a share in any new work-in-progress — a Sound Unit of £100, whose dividends include a note-by-note progress report; watching the work being moulded into life in rehearsal; and having your name inscribed for posterity in the published score.

There's not a unit left for the new works by Alastair Greig and Ben Sorensen to be pre-

miered on January 15, but a new portfolio is forthcoming. Some of the composers will be British; some will not. Some will already have a publisher; others will not. The concerts may happen at lunchtime, at 7.30pm, or at midnight. "We simply present music we believe in," says Clugston. "It communicates; audiences come. It's all about nothing being quite what it seems. And I like that."

● The BCMG is conducted by George Benjamin in Messiaen in his Century at 7.30pm on Dec 10 at the CBSO Centre, Berkley Street, Birmingham B1 2LF (0121-236 5022). Details of Sound Investments from the above address or from 0121-616 2616

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Jarvis Cocker: All set to pulp Birmingham

Dan Penn's last show in London was in the back-room of a pub in Camden Town. This time round, the venue was slightly more suited to one of the kings of 1960s soul music.

The laughter which followed made it clear that Penn will never be mainstream enough for that kind of attention.

POP Nick Lowe/Dan Penn Her Majesty's



The quiff with the riff: Nick Lowe combined with Muscle Shoals legend Dan Penn to produce a superlative night of nostalgia in the West End

ton. However, as one of the key figures on the legendary Muscle Shoals scene, Penn wrote a series of R&B classics with which the Royal Family might identify.

In keeping with the mood of the evening, Lowe initially did a handful of numbers by himself. He showed, with his hard-hitting Cruel to be Kind, exactly what it is possible to do with just a voice and a guitar.

Back for a second encore, the two men were joined by various guest stars for an inspired version of Arthur Alexander's You Better Move On, with Lowe and Penn trading vocals and joking asides. It was a classic end to a great evening.

ANN SCANLON

Lightning strikes twice

Real highwire stuff. No drums, no bass, no piano. Just two improvisers darting glibly at each other as they wander across the bandstand.

Some admirers of Django Reinhardt's legacy may be disappointed to find that, in spite of its title, this meeting between Martin Taylor and Bireli Lagrene largely avoids note-for-note evocations of the golden days of the Hot Club.

Their Soho repertoire is still rooted in the values of the swing era, a point that was obvious from opening choruses

JAZZ Gypsy Guitars Pizza Express, W1

of the old faithful, Stompin' at the Savoy, a number which served as a gentle warm-up exercise. But the players have the entire jazz guitar vocabulary at their finger-tips, including funky George Bensonisms on Sunny.

The danger in duets of this kind is that the players risk cancelling each other out — that happened a couple of years ago when Taylor linked up with Joe Pass at the Glasgow Festival. But here the interweaving of voices proved far more distinct. Taylor leaning much more towards the acoustic end of the spectrum while Lagrene preferred heavier, percussive textures which

yielded some particularly effective bass-like figures beneath Taylor's fluttering lines. The framework of Jerome Kern's The Song is You prompted a particularly lush exchange of ideas, Lagrene at one point veering into a melody borrowed from S Wonderful. Careful programming largely kept self-indulgence at bay. The one explicit reference to the Reinhardt songbook came in Manoir des raves, a limp ballad in which both players resisted the temptation to over-embellish.

Clive Davis

GREAT BRITISH HOPES Rising stars in the arts firmament

KATE DIMBLEBY

Age: 25 Profession: Jazz-blues singer. She appears at the Purcell Room on Monday, and has a Sunday evening slot at the Café Royal's Green Room for the next three weeks.



Not another instalment of the Dimbleby masterpiece for... Well, she is the daughter of broadcaster David and cookery writer Josceline. But she has attracted high praise from singer Marion Montgomery, always a shrewd judge of talent.

So she's never had the urge to present her own current affairs show? No, music has always been a passion. "Growing up I listened to a mixture of Fats Waller and 1970s soul groups like the Average White Band." She originally thought of pursuing a career on the oboe before turning to singing. While studying English at Birmingham University, she notched up appearances at local clubs, including the Mid-

lands outpost of Ronnie Scott's. Which female singer first inspired her to enter the business? Nina Simone. I love her intensity and her blues feeling.

Apert from Peggy Lee's Fever, she also covers Elvis Costello's Almost Blue.

So where does she fit in the jazz-cabaret spectrum? "I suppose I straddle the two. I've just come back from my first gig in New York. I loved it there, partly because both scenes are thriving. In London, cabarets is looked down on as an inferior form. When I've played the Regency Rooms I've found the place full of people who don't want to go out clubbing any more, but can't find places where they can sit and listen to music. They find jazz clubs a bit intimidating too."

Does she have the same unorthodox leanings? Yes, the die track of her debut album for the Black Box label, Good Vibrations, is a funky take on the Beach Boys classic. Apart from Peggy Lee's Fever, she also covers Elvis Costello's Almost Blue. "Absolutely. I'd never had that feeling before of sensing that a place is my home, and I've discovered a lot of closet New Yorkers since I've come back."

Clive Davis

ART GALLERIES FAREWELL TO MOTOCROSS ST A Day and Night Exhibition 24th Nov to 18th Dec 1998 Michael Parkin Gallery 11 Motocross St, SW1 23S 8144

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Robert Lindsay in glittering form Richard

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY The renovation on the Why are the mansions in Liverpool... great lofts and... R... A house with a past... being restored...

The invisible renaissance on the Mersey

Why are the media ignoring an inner-city boom in Liverpool, asks Rachel Kelly, who points to great lofts and even better nightclubs

Readers are revolting. Why is it that so much property writers' ink is spilt on the urban regeneration of Manchester and London, but hardly a mention is made of Liverpool?

This is the question posed by Richard Mawdsley, a Liverpoolian loft-dweller who lives at Concert Square in Fleet Street. His was one of the first disused inner-city buildings to be converted. The shell of a Victorian chemical factory became 30 loft flats in 1995, thanks to the developers Urban Splash, but other schemes are advancing quickly.

The Beetham Organisation is behind three schemes in the city's financial area, and next year will convert Wilberforce House, a large Sixties office block.

Urban Splash is now working on other schemes, including The Tea Factory — which will comprise residential, arts and leisure under one roof — and a site in Manchester Street. The company is also constructing 95 flats at the Collegiate building.

The development firm David McGann is also active at the moment.

A bemused Mr Mawdsley says: "I want to point out that inner-city living is happening elsewhere, not just in London and Manchester, and it is helping to change the image of Liverpool into a desirable place to live and work."

"I bought a book and it had a picture of my flat, which said the flat was in Smithfield, Camden, typical of London boroughs."

So the city once infamous for its graffiti and the 1981 Thatcher riots, run-down buildings and inner-city deprivation is changing. There is a good deal more to be optimistic about



A loft in space: Andrew McKechnie, left, bought his flat in Liverpool's Albert Square, above, partly because it offers him easy access to great nightlife

than just a young soccer-hero called Michael Owen. Developers, planners and estate agents all talk of an urban renaissance which has seen young people return to the city centre.

Leigh Binny, of Liverpool City Council, believes the regeneration is partly driven by the injection of 45,000 students who now reside in Liverpool. This summer saw the first graduates of the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, the city's third university, which opened three years ago.

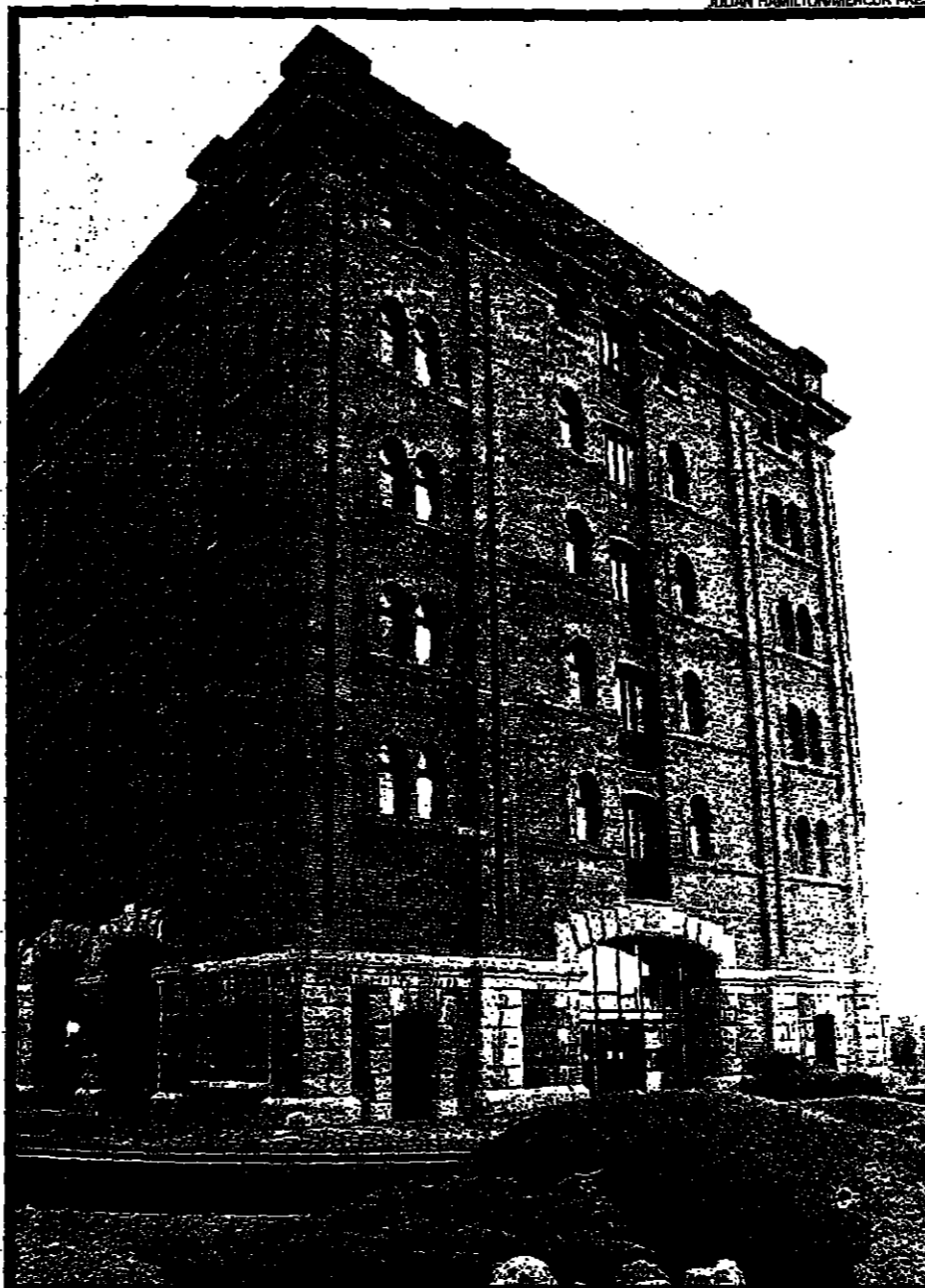
Then there is the flourishing nightlife, heralded by the internationally renowned club Cream. Liverpoolians consider their home to be a 24-hour city with many central pubs and clubs open until 2am, says Joanne Clason, general secretary of the Liverpool University Guild. Popular venues in-

clude bars such as Labinsky's and the Metz Bar, and clubs such as La Bateau and the Cavernae.

"Liverpool's image has discouraged people in the past. But now we are getting our act together and attracting people from the South and abroad," says Mr Binny.

Jonathan Falkingham, an architect at Urban Splash, says that when the project went on sale everything was virtually sold in about three weeks. "So we've obviously hit a nerve," he says.

But he is keen to stress that these projects are not aimed just at those in their twenties and early thirties. Indeed, families are not uncommon in Urban Splash buildings, as well as older buyers who want to re-settle away from the suburbs. ■ Urban Splash: 0151 707 1493. Beetham properties: 0151 476 6666.



ONE look at the ceiling and you can tell this is in an old building," says Andrew McKechnie of his loft flat in Liverpool's Albert Square. The development, once a warehouse, is one of many in the city's docklands that have been re-born as fashionable flats aimed at young professionals, Robert Watts writes.

Mr McKechnie, 27, who works for Coca-Cola, lives in the flat with his partner. His neighbours include Liverpool FC players and high-jumper Steve Smith.

He picked the flat because it was handy for family and friends, and close to his workplace and the hub of the city. "Fifty pence in a taxi and you're in the city centre with all sorts of new entertainment on offer."

First to take off were the Irish bars, then came the Italian restaurant Est Est Est, Blue Bar, Bullocco, and Revolution. The recently re-opened Tate Gallery, Robin's Theatre and cinemas are nearby. The regenerated Concert Square is also close, offering designer shopping. From there, it's a short walk to Cream, the largest nightclub in the country and, as Mr

McKechnie observes: "On Friday night it's like Ibiza, it's heaving."

Having lived in the city all his life, he is excited by the regeneration: "Wherever you go up and down the dockland there are projects making old buildings useful for a new generation."

Mr McKechnie's flat is built on two levels. On the first is the main bedroom with an ensuite bathroom. Downstairs is a sitting room and dining area, with a second bedroom positioned under the first. There is also a second bathroom, a fitted kitchen and utility room.

Mr McKechnie believes the success of the Liverpool music scene has helped the city's profile. Well-known bands such as Cast and Space have injected new life into the pop culture scene.

And the large influx of students has further helped to revitalise the city. "The old animosity to students has evaporated," he says. "Students have been embraced because people realise now that they can make a lot of money out of them. A lot of people are introduced to the city through university, they like the life and stay."

Leasehold proposals under fire

The new consultation paper may do little to improve a flawed system, writes Ben Wakeham

LAST week's consultation paper proposing a fairer deal for leaseholders has been only partially welcomed by the Leasehold Advisory Group, set up to help both leaseholders and landlords. It said the paper pruned, not uprooted, the existing legislation.

Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, says: "The leasehold system is flawed to its roots. We want something fair, workable and durable."

She believes that by launching a consultation paper which could lead to legislation, the Government is determined to give leaseholders the same security as homeowners.

Michael Tims, from the Leasehold Advisory Group, says: "The proposals appear radical in their scope. However, for a review postponed several times, the results are disappointing. Despite headlines to the contrary, the paper's detailed proposals are really tinkering with the old process."

He says the consultation paper recognises that landlords' charges are disproportionately high compared with the purchase price, but offers no solution. Nor does it address the need for leaseholders to pay genuinely disputed service charges on completion of the freehold purchase. One way to mitigate this would be to give leaseholders a right to complete if they first make an application to the Leasehold Valuation

Tribunal to resolve a service charge dispute. Joan South, of the Leasehold Enfranchisement Association, says: "The consultation paper is inexplicably biased towards the retention of the system and the continuation of the powers and privileges given to the landowners. Nothing in the Government's proposals does anything to make enfranchisement easier, and this lack of concern has to be seen in the context of the existing provisions having ground to a halt."

Ms South's concerns are given added weight by the obvious approval of Richard Lambert of the British Property Federation, which represents landlords. Mr Lambert says: "We are delighted that the Government has recognised the consensus that exists across the leasehold sector that the law needs to be reformed and rationalised. We welcome the broad thrust of many of the proposals."

"The Government has acknowledged the valuation concept and it cannot be wished away by legislative fiat or any other means. The important point is to ensure that it is fairly apportioned and is not used improperly as a means to block the enfranchisement or lease extension process."

● The Leasehold Advisory Group 0171-409 2233. The British Property Federation 0171-828 0111. The Leasehold Enfranchisement Association 0171-937 0666.

These ideas are just tinkering with the process

Listed terrace moves out of the danger zone

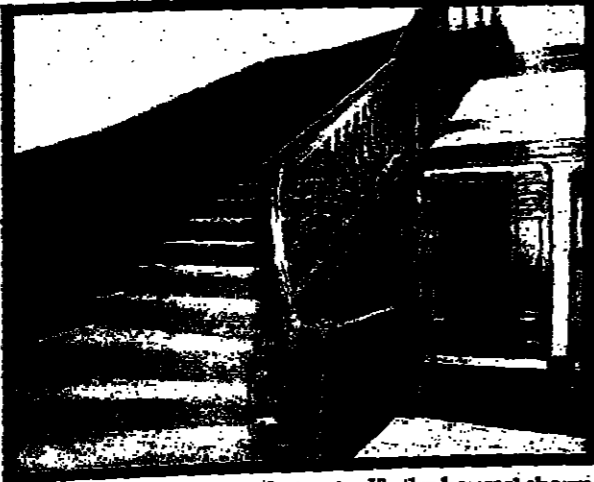
Historic houses once on the at-risk register are being restored. Eve-Ann Prentice reports

A house with a past — in notorious as well as historic terms — has been rescued to face the future in a secure family setting. The house is part of a Georgian terrace in Central London which now faces such a rosy future that English Heritage is to take the buildings off the at-risk register.

The terrace is where Benjamin Franklin and the German metaphysical poet Heinrich Heine once lived, and where women of ill-repute were known to ply their trade during the last century.

Now, after spending most of this century as offices and almost 20 years standing empty, one of the Grade II listed Georgian buildings in the terrace has had its reputation restored by being turned into a stately family home once more.

For a house that stands in the Trafalgar Square conservation area, just yards from where the Thames sweeps round from Blackfriars towards Westminster, 32 Craven Street is probably quieter than many homes in suburbia.



The elegant hall and staircase typify the houses' charm

Even if the 17th-century wood panelling were not there to insulate some of the noise, the road outside is effectively a cul-de-sac, shielded by five and six-storey buildings from the traffic bedlam of Northumberland Avenue and the Embankment.

The seven-bedroom, five-bathroom house is now available to buy for £1.5 million, or to rent, furnished, at £2,000 a week.

Craven Street is described by English Heritage as "one of the most complete terraces of that age, surviving despite traumatic episodes in its past".

David Morgan, Historic Buildings Inspector for English Heritage, says: "These houses were going to be demolished before the First World War after years of precarious existence as seedy hotels."

"They were sinking into dereliction and had suffered fires and water damage." In the late Eighties, planning permission

was granted to enlarge office space in the terrace. Thankfully, according to English Heritage, the recession of the early 1990s put paid to that scheme.

Although four houses and ten flats are being restored to their former glory, No 32 is the first to be completed. The house, which has taken a year to renovate, has the best of both worlds — of the past and present.

While the main rooms, clad in rosewood panels, feel like something out of one of the better television costume dramas, the kitchens and bathrooms are marble-surfaced tributes to present-day comforts.

When Heinrich Heine lived in No 32, he complained that there was no fire and that he felt "very peevish and ill to boot". Today, period fireplaces and discreet gas central heating means that no one need feel cold.

Rich tasseled curtains have been hung at the windows and fine carpets laid. A huge, white, vaulted basement with an ensuite shower room would make a stylish gym, suggest the estate agents, Bushells, who are handling the sale or letting.

In another reminder of ancient meeting modern, entry video phones provide security, while a working dumb waiter stands in mute testimony to the servants who have catered for past residents.

"They have tried to get the detailing right," says Mr Morgan. "The effect is one we should all applaud. On completion we will take these buildings off the at-risk register."

Two flats are also ready to be let in the terrace: a one-bedroom at £375 a week, and a three-bedroom at £500 a week. Meanwhile, the house where Benjamin Franklin lived, No 36, has been taken over by a charitable trust, which is turning it into a museum to the statesman and inventor.

● Bushells: 0171-731 2908



Retirement investment: Terry Penrose at his holiday home in Wells-next-the-Sea in Norfolk which he lets to holidaymakers during the summer

Tax fear on holiday homes

Part-time landlords often get a better return in a building society. Judith Patten reports

Second homeowners are nervous. Earlier this year there were rumours that the Government might withdraw the 50 per cent reduction on council tax on second homes, or even impose a surcharge. This has concerned not so much the weekenders who are wealthy enough to own a second home for their own use, but second homeowners who have bought a holiday house to provide some income in their retirement.

Owners such as Terry Penrose, 64, who thought that having a holiday cottage, available for letting 20 weeks a year, would provide income for his retirement. He says: "I am not a wealthy man. I have only one holiday cottage, bought to use during my retirement."

He bought his modern bungalow in Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, for £30,000. Estimates now put the value of the two-bedroom bungalow at between £65,000 and £70,000. Well furnished, with a secluded rear garden in a quiet residential neighbourhood just ten minutes' walk from the centre of the seaside town, it is fully double-glazed, carpeted and centrally heated and is available for letting at various dates between May and October.

The kitchen boasts all the appliances that are needed in a home-from-home — gas cooker, fridge, freezer, microwave and washing machine. Gas and electricity are included in the rental

price, as is all bed linen and the use of garden furniture — recliners, tables, chairs and a barbecue.

He takes a keen interest in the holidaymakers who use his home, phoning to make sure that they have settled in well and believing that people will use a well-furnished home as they would their own — which has proved true most of the time.

He has had a couple of bad tenants, but mainly he has had splendid tenants since he first started letting the bungalow in 1993. He says: "I have made new friends, met some lovely people and greatly extended my Christmas card list."

One of the financial shocks with which Mr Penrose has had to contend was the introduction of the European fire regulations (January 1997) which meant that any furniture not bearing the right label had to be replaced.

"The only reason I let the cottage was to try to cover some of the expenses. What I didn't realise was the considerable costs required to conform with all the regulations governing letting a property. I laid out more than £5,000 to satisfy the bureaucrats in Brussels."

If council tax were to increase, then Mr Penrose faces hefty rises in outgoings. He says: "In other words, another increase of over 12 per cent — which I would have to pass on to the holidaymaker — when holidays

abroad are so much cheaper. Alternatively, I could let my cottage for more than 140 days a year. But then I must go on the business rate of just under £600 per annum. Like so many others, I wish I'd spent my lump sum on a good trip round the world."

Philip Danishevsky, of North Norfolk Holiday Homes, agents for Mr Penrose's holiday bungalow, takes up the story. "Mr Penrose's tale is typical of many of our homeowners. Some, like him, have bought a cottage for security in their retirement, others have perhaps been left a property and decided to keep it for their retirement and want to get some income from it in the meantime."

He adds: "This year, the combination of the World Cup, the strong pound and a poor summer led to fewer lettings earlier in the season — our homeowners couldn't bear another body blow. Let's face it, on these figures, the return on Mr Penrose's investment is just 2 per cent. He could get a better return in the building society."

"The main reason most of the homeowners like Mr Penrose rent out their properties for holiday lets is because they enjoy looking after holidaymakers and it helps to defray a little of the cost of owning a second home. "All these measures keep eroding

away the benefit, so we will be left only with the committed, full-time holiday homeowners, who run it as a business."

"In the peak periods, there just isn't enough accommodation to go round, so tourism suffers. Tourism is the UK's fifth largest industry and Norfolk's biggest, accounting for around 11 per cent of jobs, so we need to do all we can to support it. People like Mr Penrose add enormously to the infrastructure in Norfolk."

"Agencies like North Norfolk Holiday Homes bring in tens of thousands of visitors to Norfolk every year; those who enjoy the freedom of self-catering in the many houses, flats, cottages and barn conversions we offer along the Norfolk coast. They come under their own steam and make use of local shops, restaurants, pubs, attractions and other amenities."

"Local tourism has already suffered enough body blows not suffered by our European partners, who take tourism very seriously."

"Although it would seem there is no mention of the proposal to withdraw the 50 per cent allowance in the Department of the Environment's local government White Paper, *Modern Local Government — In Touch with the People*, we and homeowners are left with the uncomfortable feeling that it is something that the Government is considering."

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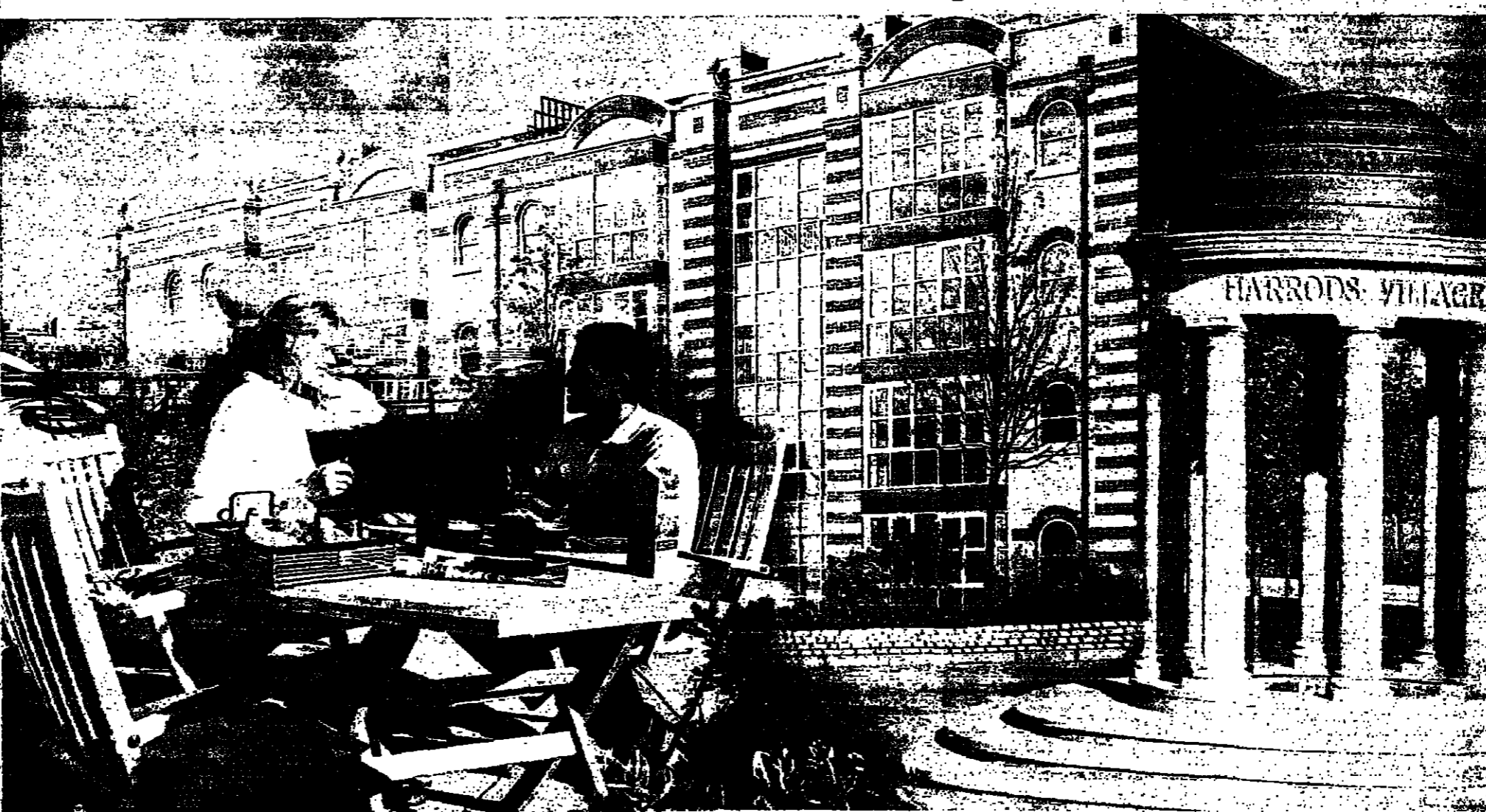
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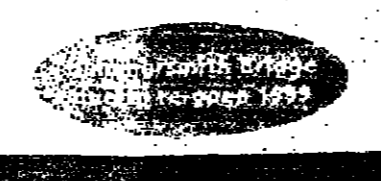
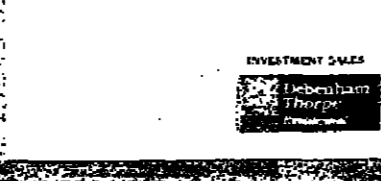
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Developers need to build more gyms and pools to satisfy our desire to keep fit, says Rachel Kelly

Homes with a healthy outlook

At last developers are waking up to the health revolution. It is not only Madonna who insists on having a gym installed at home, such as in the Kensington house she rented recently. Buyers increasingly desire flats and houses to have pools and somewhere to work out.

Teresa Houghton is typical. She and her husband recently bought a flat at Canary Riverside, at Canary Wharf, in London's Docklands. The couple used to live in Hong Kong, where it is common for developments to include leisure facilities, and their home had a pool. But when they started to look for a UK home, they were surprised not to be able to find a flat with one.

"We lived in Hong Kong between 1987 and 1994 and got used to city living with excellent leisure facilities on hand," says Mrs Houghton. "When we came back to England we both realised we missed the gym and pool and couldn't find a flat in southern England with them. We decided that the property we bought for our retirement must have health facilities."

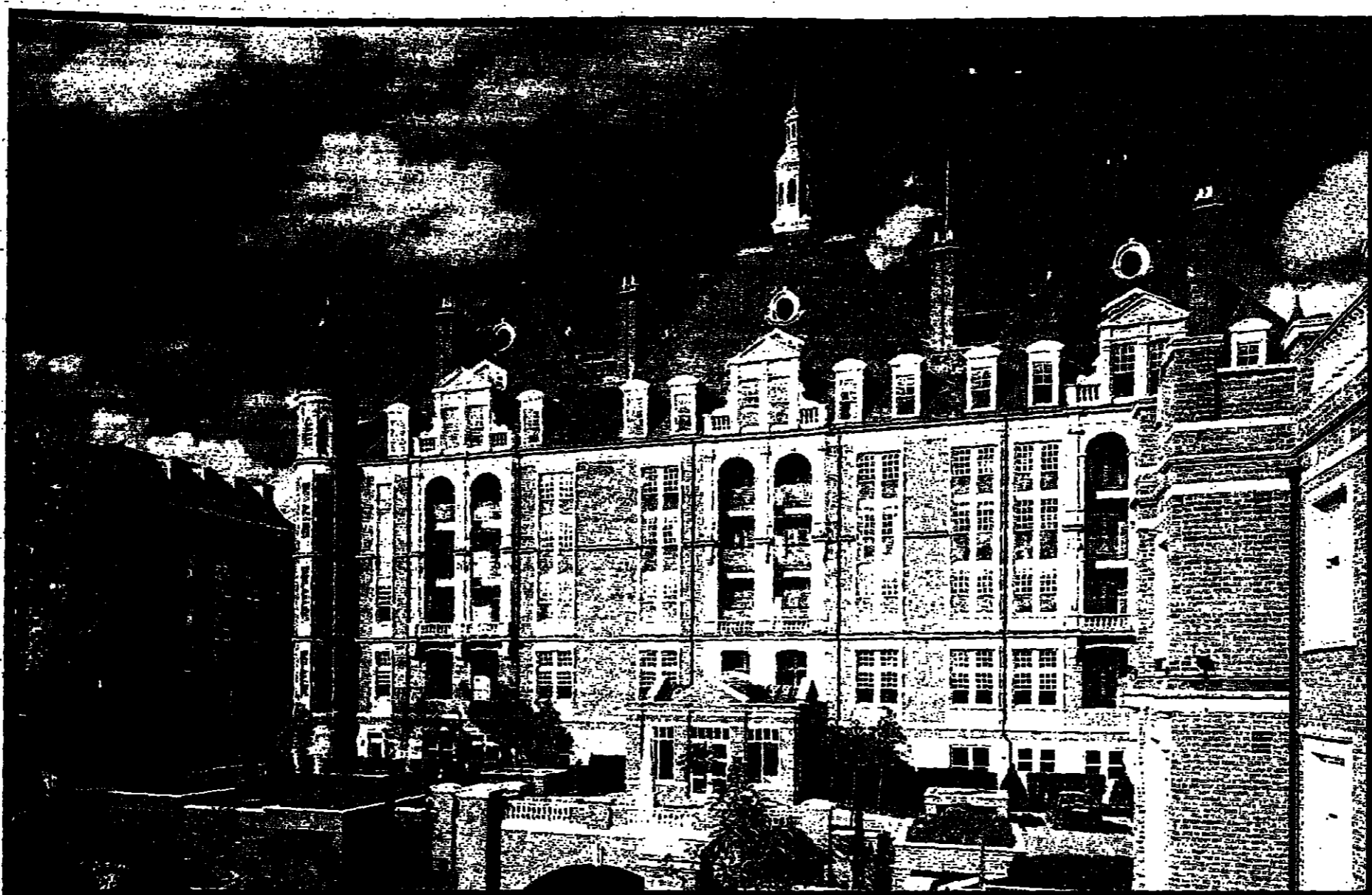
"We have bought a flat on the 11th floor of Berkeley Tower, which is due for completion in the autumn of

'A major factor in our decision to buy was that there was a 20-metre pool we could use'

1999. The major factor in our decision was the fact that there is going to be a 20-metre swimming pool within the scheme.

"Other factors included the availability of the health club, of which the pool is a part, but which will also have a well-equipped gym and treatment rooms. In addition, the two-bedroom flat has a fantastic view along the river. We love Canary Wharf - perhaps because the high-rise buildings remind us of Hong Kong."

Madeline Bloom's desire for a pool also swayed her decision to purchase at Mount Vernon, a scheme by Marylebone Warwick Balfour in Hampstead Village, North London. "We had no plans to move from our four-storey Victorian family house in St John's Wood, even though it had become too big for us," says Mrs Bloom. "Then one Sunday, while lunch-



Among the leisure facilities at Mount Vernon - a scheme by Marylebone Warwick Balfour in Hampstead village, North London - is a swimming pool

ing with cousins, we went for a walk and found it difficult to keep fit while in London. Now my problems are solved. I have a personal trainer who visits me in the gym twice a week, and I swim twice a week too. "I feel so much better for taking regular exercise. I have no excuse not to take exercise now, and it is such a pleasant environment that I positively enjoy doing it. I tend not to use the change facilities in the leisure centre, but wander over from my own apartment, already changed."

In York, there is no pool on offer, but a bike. The developer, ING Real Estate, is selling a bicycle with each of the 61 studio flats and houses in its York development, Canary House, close to York Minster. The conversion of the Grade II-listed former County hospital in the Monkgate area will provide property to rent in the private sector. Rents range from £375 a month for a studio to £875 a month for a two-bedroom flat or one of the ten houses.

Peter Davies, from the firm, says: "We expect this to appeal to older people who no longer use a car and need to be close to all local amenities, as well as to young professionals. We feel we are doing our bit for the environment by guaranteeing to preserve most of the trees on the site and to encourage people not to use their cars in the city centre."

In the Lake District, buyers can enjoy the fact that flats for sale at Undercrag, an upmarket timeshare development, are on sale only to non-smokers. Undercrag is being built in the grounds of Undercrag Manor Hotel, one of the area's grand country houses, set in 40 acres of formal gardens and woodland. The split-level flats,

built in 1860 coach houses, have everything the healthy could wish for after a hike on the fells: steam rooms, power showers and, in due course, there will be a fitness centre. More prosaically, there are some existing purpose-built blocks with pools on offer. John D Wood is selling a two-bedroom flat in Portman Gate, Broadstead Terrace, North London, where there is a pool and gymnasium. A flat on sale for £290,000 at Ferryman's Quay, William Morris Way in Fulham, southwest London, has membership to the Harbour Club included.

Habitat to suit party animals

IT is not the sort of house you would normally think of as belonging to the life and soul of the party. As the festive season springs to life, a bungalow is probably the last place you would consider boogieing the night away.

Think of a bungalow and you probably conjure up an image of a quiet home for quiet people surrounded by tidy gardens where Sunday means washing the car.

But a one-storey house now for sale in South London has been designed for the party animal, and where Sunday could be hushed for different reasons.

"The word bungalow makes it sound like a granny flat when in reality it is an incomparable party house - even down to the privacy you so badly need the morning after," says Steve Smith, area manager of Bushells, the estate agent handling the sale. Seclusion for recuperating is provided by an outdoor timber-decked courtyard.

The detached house, in Belvoir Road, Dalwich, South London, is entirely open-plan, apart from two bedrooms, a bathroom and garage with remote-controlled door, with glass walls and doors that fold away.

The sixties bungalow, on sale for around £195,000, has been turned into an avant-garde home by the developers Square Foot. Stripped wooden floors, white walls and spotlights have transformed the property, and the feeling of space is coupled with such fixtures as vertical radiators.

Square Foot specialises in converting unusual buildings such as water towers, warehouses, factories and churches, and the company has tried to make a party piece out of the available space. The main sitting room is 16ft by 14ft, while the kitchen is 12ft by 9ft.

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Secure debt is not debt on a security

Taylor Clark International Ltd v Lewis (Inspector of Taxes)
 Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Schiemann
 Judgment November 18

The fact that a debt was secured was not sufficient to turn it into a "debt on a security" within the meaning of section 134 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979. Accordingly, currency exchange losses incurred by the taxpayer company when a secured, interest-bearing loan was repaid was not an allowable loss for capital gains tax purposes.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer company, Taylor Clark International Ltd, from a decision of Mr Justice Robert Walker (*The Times* March 24, 1997; [1997] STC 499), whereby he dismissed its appeal by way of case stated from a determination of special commissioners that losses sustained during the accounting periods to March 1992 were not allowable losses.

Section 134 provides: "(1) Where a person incurs a debt to another... on a chargeable gain shall accrue... on a disposal of the debt on a security (as defined in section 82 above)."

"(2) Subject to the provisions of sections 82... and subject to subsection (1) above, the satisfaction of a debt or part of it (including a debt on a security as defined in section 82 above) shall be treated as a disposal of the debt or of that part by the creditor made at the time when the debt or that part was satisfied."

Section 82 (3)(b) defines "security" as including "any loan stock or similar security... and whether secured or unsecured."

Mr Graham Aaronson, QC and Mr Anthony de Garr Robinson for the taxpayer company; Mr Laurence Henderson, QC, for the Crown.

Simon said that the appeal raised the issue whether the fact that a debt was secured was a sufficient characteristic for the debt to be a "debt on a security".

A second issue was whether, if that was not a sufficient characteristic, the debt in question was, by reason of its particular characteristics, a "debt on a security".

The statutory provisions relevant to the accounting period in question were those in the 1979 Act. In that Act the term "assets" was widely defined to include debts, so that the disposal of a debt at a profit or a loss would, in the absence of special provisions to the contrary, give rise to a chargeable gain or an allowable loss.

Special provisions relating to debts were to be found in section 134. The consequence of section 134(1) and (2) was that where the original creditor was repaid by the debtor, any gain or loss arising from the repayment will not be a chargeable gain or an allowable loss unless the debt was a debt on a security.

Mr Aaronson submitted that a secured debt was a debt on a security. He pointed to the fact that the definition of "security" in section 82(3)(b) was only inclusive. That, he said, showed that it had an unexpressed primary or historic meaning and that meaning was to be found in *Singer v Williams* ([1921] AC 41).

He relied in particular on the words of Viscount Cave (at p49): "The usual meaning of the word 'security' was not open to doubt. The word denotes a debt or claim the payment of which was in some way secured."

"The security would generally consist of a right to resort to some fund or property for payment; but I am not prepared to say that other forms of security (such as personal guarantees) were excluded."

In each case, however, where the word was used in its normal sense, some form of secured liability was postulated. No doubt the meaning of the word may be enlarged by an interpretative clause contained in a statute... or the context may show... that the word was used to denote, in addition to securities in the ordinary sense, other investments such as stocks or shares."

Mr Aaronson said that that was the core meaning of "security" as that expression was used in a taxing statute, and the fact that the loan in the present case was secured meant that it constituted a debt on a security whether or not it also fell within the extension to the core meaning set out in section 82(3)(b).

He pointed to the several references in *Aberdeen Construction Group Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners* ([1978] AC 885) and *W. T. Ramsay Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners* ([1982] AC 300) to pure or simple unsecured debts not being debts on a security.

Mr Aaronson argued for his core meaning could not avoid a degree of imprecision as to what form of security sufficed. Viscount Cave was not prepared to rule out security in the form of a personal guarantee, and Mr Aaronson said that possibly security in that form was comprehended.

If any personal guarantee sufficed, the distinction between a mere debt and a "debt on a security" would be a remarkably insubstantial one for the purposes of capital gains tax.

If proprietary security was required, Parliament would have to be taken to have chosen to distinguish between a mere debt and a secured debt without saying anything about the quality or value of the security. Again that seemed highly improbable.

Mr Aaronson qualified his submission by saying that there was a possible exception where the security was illusory or derogatory in value. Of course a sham security would be ignored, but it was difficult to accept that Parliament intended to distinguish between security which was derogatory in value and other inadequate security without a word to that effect in the legislation.

Moreover, when the draftsman of the 1979 Act wanted to refer to proprietary security, he did so expressly (see section 23) or implicitly by using the participle "secured" as in the concluding words of section 82(2)(b).

In his Lordships' judgment it was inherently improbable that Parliament intended by section 82(3)(b) in its context that any secured debt would be comprehended within the meaning of "security".

His Lordship could see no unifying characteristic of secured debts and the marketable investments which were uncomprehended by the words of inclusion, and could not accept that two disparate classes of asset, one defined by inclusion and the other unexpressed, were securities for the purposes of a tax on securities.

The distinction drawn in the authority between a mere unsecured debt and a marketable investment was, in his Lordship's judgment, clearly not intended to exhaust what was not and what was a debt on a security.

His Lordship agreed with Mr Henderson that while the existence of proprietary security for a debt should increase the original lender's chances of avoiding a loss, that security did not of itself turn the loan into an asset which was in principle capable of being disposed of at a profit.

As he said, Parliament could not have intended that the existence of any security, however inadequate, for any debt, however impermanent, should without more turn the debt into a debt on a security. His Lordship therefore rejected the first ground of appeal.

Was the debt owed to Taylor Clark a debt on a security? To his Lordships' mind the

judgment was plainly right to hold that the loan was not a marketable security in any realistic sense, the most important features outweighing the others relied on by Mr Aaronson being the absence of any fixed term for the loan, the fact that it was repayable on demand by the holder of the note and the fact that it was repayable by the borrower at any time without penalty or additional consideration.

His Lordship did not see it as being of great assistance that Taylor Clark was lending the money for property development purposes. That was not a contractual term and did not detract from the permanence of a loan which the creditor or the borrower could bring to an end at any time.

That did not appear to his Lordship to be a loan intended to be marketable or dealt in even though it was assignable, still less did it appear to have been intended to be assigned other than as a whole.

It was common ground that the promissory note could not be divided, although no doubt equity would recognise an assignment of part of the benefit of the loan.

The tenor of the documentation, although somewhat curiously worded, confirmed the impression that the loan was never intended to be a marketable security but was a mere interest-bearing loan, with security from a parent company to its subsidiary.

The fact that the loan was in foreign currency, which always gave rise to the possibility of a currency gain or loss when the loan was repaid, was not a significant feature as the basic rule in section 134(1) expressly recognised that, whether the debt was in sterling or some other currency, no chargeable gain or allowable loss was to accrue to the original creditor on its disposal.

Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Schiemann agreed. Solicitors: William Sturges & Co, Solicitors of Inland Revenue.

Mistress held husband's share on trust

Lawson v Coombes
 Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Robert Walker
 Judgment November 26

A married man who bought a house jointly with his mistress but conveyed it into her sole name with the purpose of preventing his wife having any claim over it nevertheless entitled to a declaration, after the relationship with his mistress had ended, that she held his half-share in the property on a resulting trust for his benefit, and to an order that she sold the property divided between them.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Douglas Hunter Lawson, against the refusal by Judge Russell-Wicks, QC, at Dartford County Court on January 6, 1998, of his claim under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 that he was entitled to a beneficial interest in the property known as 12 Queenswood Road, Blackfield, Sidcup, Kent and registered in the sole name of the defendant, Rebecca Caroline Coombes.

Mr David Reade for the plaintiff; Mr Andrew Short for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said the plaintiff, now 82, and the defendant, almost 80, first met in 1973. Each was then married and living in rented accommodation.

The defendant was separated from her husband and living in a one-room bedsit in Blackheath. The plaintiff lived in Beckham. His wife had psychiatric problems for which from time to time she required hospitalisation.

In 1980, the plaintiff and defendant purchased a flat together for £5,500, he contributing £3,000 and she £2,500. But the property was conveyed into the defendant's sole name in order to avoid the plaintiff's wife having any claim over the property. The parties did not live together, but the plaintiff used to visit the defendant at the flat.

In 1981 the flat was sold and the proceeds used to purchase a property, which had yet to be built, in Spain, where they planned to live together. The move proved disastrous and in 1983, having sold the Spanish property at a loss, they bought another property in England.

In 1989 they sold it and bought the property at 12 Queenswood

road which was the subject of these proceedings. As before, that was conveyed into the sole name of the defendant.

In 1991 the parties separated, the plaintiff leaving to live with his son, the defendant remaining in the property. In 1993 the plaintiff began proceedings, claiming a declaration that the property was held by the defendant on trust for sale in equal shares, and an order for its sale.

The judge found that there was a common intention to purchase the property in equal shares, but held himself bound by the decision in *Tinker v Tinker* ([1970] P 184) to hold that the plaintiff was precluded from asserting his half-interest.

The only difference was that in *Tinker v Tinker* the husband, who had embarked on a new business venture, was advised by his solicitor to put his house into his wife's name in order to put it out of the reach of his creditors, should the business fail, whereas here it was to put it out of the reach of the plaintiff's wife.

The present case was not pleaded before the judge as one of illegality, so *Tinker v Milligan* ([1994] 1 AC 340) was not cited to him. In that case a house was bought by two single women who ran a lodging house to enable them to make fraudulent benefit claims; the house was vested in the plaintiff's sole name.

The House of Lords held that the defendant was entitled to assert her beneficial interest in the property, notwithstanding that she had acquired in the course of an illegal transaction, so long as she did not actually rely on the illegality.

Here a case of illegality could be made in relation to section 37 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 on a finding of transference intended to prevent or reduce financial relief.

By subsection (2)(b) where proceedings for financial relief were brought by one person against another, and the court was satisfied that the other party had made a disposition with the intention of defeating the claim for financial relief, the court could set that disposition aside.

That power could be exercised, however, only where the relevant disposition had been made.

A disposition such as the conveyance in this case, whose purpose was to prevent the other party to a

marriage from having a claim over her husband's property and from seeking an order under section 37(2) of the 1973 Act, could accordingly be categorised as one made with an illegal purpose.

The present case was thus on all fours with *Tinker v Milligan*. To achieve the illegal purpose of putting the property out of the reach of the plaintiff's wife, it was conveyed into the name of the defendant, a person to whom the presumption of advancement did not apply.

It followed that the defendant held half the beneficial interest on a resulting trust for the plaintiff. *Tinker v Tinker* could be distinguished because that was a case in which the presumption of advancement applied, and the husband's evidence, far from rebutting it, reinforced that presumption on its specific facts, he must be taken to have intended to part with ownership.

Canor v Cor ([1975] 239 EG 121), on which the judge also relied, was another case of a dispute over the beneficial interest in a house purchased in the mistress's name to keep it out of the reach of the man's creditors.

After the mistress's death, her executor claimed possession. The man counterclaimed for a declaration that he was beneficially entitled to it.

Sir Anthony Powellman, Vice-Chancellor, applying *Tinker v Tinker*, said the only way consistent with honesty that the man could have ensured the house would be available to his creditors, was to give it beneficially to his mistress.

He could not be heard in court to allege a dishonest motive, for it was axiomatic that he who came to equity must come with clean hands. The man's claim was accordingly refused and that of the executrix upheld.

In the instant case, his Lordship said that *Canor v Cor* could no longer stand with *Tinker v Milligan* and had to be taken to have been disapproved by the House of Lords in the latter case.

In the result, the plaintiff was entitled to the declaration sought and an order for sale of the property and division of the proceeds.

Lord Justice Henry agreed and Lord Justice Robert Walker gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Watts & Leading, New Eltham; Howart, Scott, Beasley, Heath.

Handing down approved reserved judgments

Practice Statement (Supreme Court: Judgments) (No 2)
 Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Waller
 Judgment November 25

Where a reserved judgment was handed down as approved in the Court of Appeal and all divisions of the High Court it would be marked throughout "approved by the court for handing down (subject to editorial corrections)".

There would be no embargo on copying it so long as its status was made clear and at present no charge would be made for permission to do so. The embargo on the copying of the draft judgment sent to the parties before handing down would be retained.

Where a reserved written judgment was unreported, reference in

court had to be to the approved official transcript, if available, not to the approved transcript handed down, since that might have been subject to subsequent revision.

The statement made further to *Practice Statement (Supreme Court: Judgments)* (*The Times* April 23, 1998; [1998] 1 WLR 825) and with the agreement of Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls; Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor and Sir Stephen Brown, President, applied, like its predecessor, to judgments delivered in all divisions of the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, so stated when sitting in the Lord Chief Justice's Court with Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Waller.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE stated that in his earlier statement

of April 1998 he had said that the arrangements he was announcing should be regarded as experimental and that they would be kept under review. Experience since that time had shown that in general the new arrangements were working well, but that there was scope for some fine tuning.

In particular, for a number of reasons it had not proved possible for the official shorthand writers to publish the official transcripts of approved, handed down judgments quite as quickly as the court had hoped, and there had been some uncertainty as to the status of the judgment given by the court to the shorthand writers.

The court had decided to retain the embargo on copying the draft judgment which was sent to the parties two days before a judgment was handed down. An approved

judgment, when handed down in court, would now be entitled "Judgment: Approved by the court for handing down (subject to editorial corrections)", and every page of a judgment which was handed down in that form would be marked in a similar manner.

There would be no embargo on copying a judgment handed down in that form, so long as its status was made clear, and at present no charge would be made for permission to copy it.

In order to make it possible for approved judgments to be handed down in that way, the parties' legal advisers would be requested to submit their written list of suggested corrections by 12 noon, not 3pm, on the day before judgment was handed down.

If it was not possible to comply with that deadline, any later correc-

tions approved by the judge would be included in the final text which the official shorthand writer, or the judge's clerk, in courts which lacked an official shorthand writer, would incorporate into the approved official text of the judgment as soon as practicable.

Where a reserved written judgment had not been reported, reference had still to be made in court to the approved official transcript, if that was available, and not to the approved judgment which was handed down, since that might have been subject to later revision after the text was prepared for handing down.

The court would continue to keep those experimental arrangements under review. Comments or suggestions about any aspect of the arrangements should be addressed to Lord Justice Brooke.

Policy on placing young offenders is lawful

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte J. Regina v Same, Ex parte B
 Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Tuckey
 Judgment November 18

The Home Secretary's policy of placing young offenders sentenced under section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 in young offender institutions rather than community care establishments, unless exceptional circumstances existed, was lawful.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing renewed applications by J and B, two boys aged 16, for leave to appeal against the decision of Mr Justice Collins in the Queen's Bench Division on July 3, 1998 to dismiss their application for judicial review of the Home Secretary's decision of March 9, 1998 that they should be detained at Portland Young Offender Institution.

The boys had been convicted of robbery in January 1998 and sentenced to three years detention under section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933.

Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Ian Wise for the boys; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Michael Fordham for the Home Secretary.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the Home Secretary had the power to direct where a young offender sentenced to de-

tion under section 53 of the 1933 Act was to be detained. In respect of offenders detained in secure conditions the Home Secretary had a discretion to choose either a young offender institution or a community care establishment.

In 1987, in relation to offenders covered by section 53, Home Office Circular Instruction 31/87 had indicated that an offender would go to a community care establishment unless there were particular reasons why that allocation was inappropriate.

By section 1A of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, as inserted by section 123 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, Parliament had laid down that, for those who had committed offences which were less serious than those which were dealt with under section 53 of the 1933 Act, the sentence was to be served in a young offender institution.

The policy now adopted by the Home Secretary involved treating the normal place where a young offender served his sentence as being a young offender institution. The Home Secretary accepted that he had to consider the situation of each individual young offender, but that would be the normal allocation.

The Home Secretary had said that there were no exceptional reasons for placing the two boys in community care establishments.

The boys had submitted that that approach was unlawful. In his Lordship's judgment, in approaching the matter it was im-

possible to ignore the consequences of section 1A of the 1982 Act.

If, when less serious offenders were being sentenced to a young offender institution, the Home Secretary had to exercise his discretion in accordance with the previous policy in the circular instruction to sentence those who had committed more serious offences to some other form of disposal, that would be regarded as more favourable, that would be inconsistent with what Parliament had indicated by enacting section 1A.

Section 1A could not alter the interpretation of section 53 but it could create a different factor which the Home Secretary would almost be acting unreasonably if he ignored it when exercising his discretion under section 53.

In exercising his discretion, the Home Secretary was required to bear in mind the importance not only of coming to a fair and proper decision in relation to the particular offender, but also the need to have a policy, which was sensible in relation to offenders as a whole.

To ignore the existence of section 1A would be to run against the sentencing structure for young offenders as a whole which Parliament had established. His Lordship had seen nothing to show that the Home Secretary's policy was unlawful.

Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Tuckey agreed. Solicitors: H. M. B. Law, Stoke-on-Trent; Treasury Solicitor.

Cost benefit analysis not appropriate

Dodd v Chief Constable of Cheshire Constabulary

Where liability had been admitted and judgment had been issued for damages to be assessed, but the defendant had secured an order for costs against a legally aided plaintiff, it was not appropriate for the judge to carry out a cost benefit analysis to decide whether the case should go to trial on quantum.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Tuckey and Mr Justice Cazalet) so held on November 24 allowing an appeal by Michael Terence Dodd against the striking out by Judge Wooley in Chester County Court of his claim for wrongful imprisonment against Cheshire Constabulary.

MR JUSTICE CAZALET said the case was different from *AB v John Weale & Brother Ltd* (No 2) (*The Times* December 1, 1993).

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the Home Secretary had the power to direct where a young offender sentenced to de-

Scots Law Report December 2 1998 Inner House

Benefits irrelevant to interest

Wisely John Fulton (Plumbers) Ltd
 Before the Lord President (Lord Roger), Lord Sutherland and Lord Caplan
 Judgment July 21

Social security benefits recoverable in terms of the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997 should be disregarded in determining those damages on which interest fell to be included in any judgment.

The First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held, determining the issue reported to it in an action of damages at the instance of James Wisely against John Fulton (Plumbers) Ltd.

Mr James Peoples, QC and Mr Brian Fitzpatrick for the pursuer; Mr Michael Jones, QC, for the defenders.

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that following proof the defenders had been found liable in damages to the pursuer for injuries as result of an accident on December 10, 1990.

Those damages included damages for past loss of earnings on which interest would fall to be awarded. The case had been reported to the Inner House as there were two conflicting Outer House opinions on the approach to be adopted to such interest.

earnings as had been held in *Spencer v Wilson* (1998 SLT 689) or only to that part of the court's award of interest which was in excess of the difference between the award and the amount of the income support which the pursuer had received, as in *George v George C. Peoples & Son* (1998 SLT 685).

The duty of the court to include interest arose at the stage when the court pronounced an interlocutor decreeing for payment of damages of personal injuries. The interest to be awarded related to the period up to the date of decree.

Section 11A of the Damages (Scotland) Act 1993 seemed to require that the sum for interest should be included as part of the sum consisting of or including damages in respect of personal injuries.

The time of payment of damages to the pursuer was important not just because in certain cases it might have the effect of determining the amount of benefits which the defender had to pay to the secretary of state in terms of the 1997 Act but because in all cases, it fixed the moment when the defender or actually became liable to pay the secretary of state the amount equal to the total amount of recoverable benefits.

Another purpose of the 1997 Act was to ensure that the victim who had received benefits from the state to replace his loss of earnings and whose financial loss had corre-

spondingly been reduced, should not obtain compensation for that element of his loss in so far as covered by the benefits.

That represented Parliament's current solution to the problem of the relationship of benefits and damages which had existed in one form or another since the National Insurance Act 1911.

The mechanism for carrying out Parliament's intention to prevent double recovery operated not at the stage when the court granted the decree for payment of the sum by way of damages, but later when the defender came to discharge the pursuer's claim to payment by virtue of the decree.

Section 8 of the 1997 Act provided that the pursuer's claim which had been reduced by the decree was to be treated for all purposes as discharged if the defender paid not the amount specified in the decree, but a reduced amount. That reduced amount was to be calculated in terms of subsections (2) to (5).

The structure of the legislation was thus that deduction of benefits was made at the time of payment; by contrast the court dealt with interest at the stage of determining the defender's liability.

Those provisions, as re-enacted in 1992, had been repealed without re-enactment in the 1997 Act.

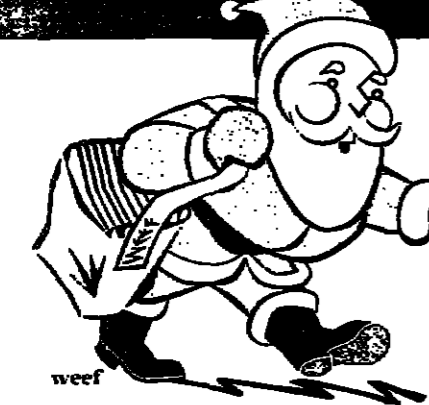
In that situation the court required to take notice of the fact that Parliament had omitted the precise provision which previously directed the court to deduct benefits when calculating interest.

The 1997 Act was a practical compromise and in that situation the court was best guided by looking to the terms of the Act itself rather than trying to apply more general principles.

Here it was significant that the earlier provisions had not been re-enacted.

That was a powerful indication that Parliament did not intend the court to take benefits into account when calculating interest. There was nothing in the overall scheme of the Act which overcame that indication.

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RACING: SUSPENDED O'DWYER LOSES LONGSTANDING PARTNERSHIP WITH FORMER GOLD CUP WINNER

Carberry gets preference on Imperial Call

BY CHRIS McGRATH
CONOR O'DWYER, who enjoyed his finest hour winning the 1996 Cheltenham Gold Cup on Imperial Call, has lost the ride on the rejuvenated Irish star to Paul Carberry.



Old rivals, Imperial Call and Dorans Pride, right, are set to clash again in the John Durkan Memorial Chase at Punchestown on Sunday

RICHARD EVANS
Nap: SCAVO (2.40 Plumpton)
Next best: Hal Ho Yarrowom (3.40 Plumpton)

and I'd say he'll stay on the horse now," Hurley said. "He seems to have that way of getting horses to travel and jump. He gave Imperial Call a lot of confidence. I was looking at the video a couple of days ago and was very impressed how the horse finished the race, the way he jumped the last and galloped away, looking so unconcerned. Conor is a very nice fellow who rides very well, he's just unlucky the way it turned out with his suspension."

No doubt this misfortune will, in the long run, hurt O'Dwyer more than the punishment that allowed it to happen in the first place. He was banned for 21 days under the "non-risers" rule when third in a novice hurdle at Punchestown on November 1. His sen-

tence was reduced by three days on appeal, ensuring that he could be last return for the second half of the big Christmas meeting at Leopardstown. As it only applies to Irish-

land, moreover, he was able to keep his eye in with two rides at Newcastle yesterday.

A charming and plegmatic character, he will — with the help of Arthur Moore — readily consolidate his status as Ire-

land's leading senior jockey when he returns to the fray. At the same time, his replacement on Imperial Call offers a lucid summary of how the Irish weighing room is increasingly dominated by its two

young bucks, Carberry and Ruby Walsh. With Charlie Swan concentrating his energies on training, they are contesting the succession with an ardour exemplified by their classic duel in the big novice

hurdle at Fairyhouse last Sunday. Carberry certainly infects chasers with something approaching arrogance and Imperial Call undeniably responded well at Naas, jump-

ing boldly in front and leaving Opera Hat — a grade one winner at Aintree but rated pounds better round Naas — toiling 15 lengths in his wake. He had previously shown plenty of spirit giving two stone to Anabatic in a driving finish at Cork, and at least confirmed himself back from the wilderness.

His rejuvenation finds a literal complement in the new personnel around him — not just in Carberry, but in the unlikely figure of Hurley. Just 23, he is in his first season with a licence and many were sceptical when he assumed control of Imperial Call from Fergie Sutherland, who retired last summer.

"I've always had a keen interest in racing, though my family were more into half-breds and breeding," the West Corkman said. "I started off riding ponies and then it was showjumping, eventing, cross-country, horse trials, until four or five years ago, when I started working for Lisselan Farms. I'm not nervous about having Imperial Call — it's a great challenge."

"I couldn't say what his problems have been, though he has had a bit of back trouble. The thing is that he's back now. I had been in two minds about running him in the ground at Cork, but he battled under all that weight and I wasn't disappointed. Then I was thrilled with him at Naas because he could have run badly and still won, but did it so impressively."

Certainly, Imperial Call will prove himself back on the Gold standard if he wins on Sunday, as his opponents include Dorans Pride and, possibly, Boss Doyle if he has recovered from his Hennessy exertions.

Reveley lands welcome four-timer

TO MANY punters, the dreadful display at Newbury last weekend of the well-fancied stablemates, Seven Towers and Marzello, suggested that something is badly amiss in the yard of their trainer, Mary Reveley — and they were offered further evidence at Newcastle yesterday when Wynyard Lady could finish only second in the Philip Cusins Conditional Jockeys' Hurdle. The flaw in their gloomy prognosis is that Mrs Reveley won four other races on the card at combined odds of 10/709.1.

Lord Lamb confirmed himself a promising recruit in the Tommy O'Connell Novices' Hurdle. Idling in front, he preserved a two-length advantage under Alan Dempsey, the amateur who has made such a prolific start as their apparent to Peter Niven. Reveley's stable jockey, Niven, who partnered the other three winners, brought things full circle with Kinginnee at 33-1 in the EBF Joe Wake Novices' Hurdle. The mare's dam, Loch Brandy, gave him his first winner when he was himself starting out as an amateur.

Another in-form trainer is Venetia Williams, whose growing army of supporters expect her to follow up Tector Mill's Hennessy success in the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown on Saturday by Racketball, who was yesterday cut to 9/2 from 10-1 by the sponsor. The favourite, Blowing Wind, is 3-1 from 9-2 after Noel Meade declared Snow Dragon will be his only runner from three entries.

Le Couray, the leading four-year-old hurdler in France, has been purchased by J. P. McManus.

Handwritten notes and signatures in the right margin.

THUNDERER
1.00 Fryd Satellite
1.30 Lord Pat
2.00 Celtic Duke (nap)
Timekeeper's top pick: 1.30 LORD PAT.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
1.00 RICHMONDSHIRE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HURDLE
(E2,458: 2m) (21 runners)

1.30 SCORTON SELLING HURDLE
(E1,614: 2m) (19 runners)

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS Wins Rrs % JOCKEYS Wins Rrs %

SPECIALISTS
RACELINE
CANTERBURY
WOLVERHAMPTON

2.00 89'S HANDICAP CHASE (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (E7,568: 3m 11 1/2y) (22 runners)

2.30 ELLERTON JUVENILE HURDLE (3-Y-O; E2,430: 2m) (12 runners)

3.00 NORTH YORKSHIRE HURDLE CHASE (E2,861: 2m) (13 runners)

3.30 STREETLAMB NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (E2,648: 2m 30) (19 runners)

3.30 BRITISH GAS FIRST IN THE FIELD HURDLE (E3,040: 2m 4y) (10)

PLUMPTON
THUNDERER
12.40 Treasure Dome. 1.10 Native Charm. 1.40 Cavalero. 1.20 Polar Flight. 2.40 Cardinal Rule. 3.10 Bowles Patrol. 3.40 Millmourt.

1.10 HENFIELD HURDLE CHASE (E2,668: 2m 2) (4)

1.40 GALLEND CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR RIDERS HURDLE CHASE (E2,705: 3m 11 1/2y) (4)

1.20 DITCHLING NOVICES HURDLE (E2,548: 2m 4) (13)

1.20 HUNDRED YEARS MAIDEN STAKES (Div L: E2,424: 1m 100y) (10)

2.40 OWL HOLDINGS HURDLE CHASE (E5,446: 2m 5) (6)

3.10 PETER PANNETT 70TH BIRTHDAY NOVICES HURDLE (E2,775: 3m 11y) (11)

3.40 HBLB EASTBOURNE HURDLE CHASE (E2,373: 2m 4) (6)

3.20 COW SELLING STAKES (E1,945: 1m 100y) (13)

4.20 BOWMER AND KIRKLAND DESIGN AND BUILD HURDLE CHASE (E2,871: 5) (13)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Newcastle
Going: soft (good to soft, in places)

Newton Abbot
Going: soft (heavy in places)

Southwell
Going: standard

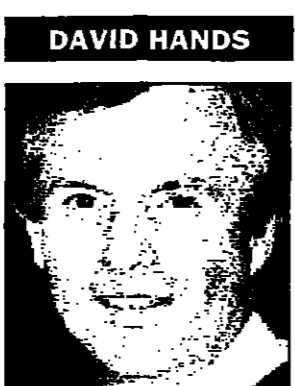
BUNGLED FIRST TIME: Catterick

BLUNDED FIRST TIME: Catterick

RUGBY UNION

Tired players fall victim to overcrowding

WITHIN 15 days in November, there have been 13 showcases for rugby union in the form of international matches...



DAVID HANDS

Thomas, of Wales, penalised the teams 40 times, and André Watson, of South Africa, penalised France and Australia on 39 occasions...

It should have been a boom time for the game, in terms of exposure and quality, but it was not. Instead, the rugby public has paid a lot of money for a glut of fractured affairs...

only are the performers from Australia and South Africa tired at the end of their long season, they are running into referees who are patently confused over how they should control games...

It does not matter which hemisphere they come from, the world's top officials are struggling to find the game that the lawmakers and the public want...

The official figures, supplied by Unisys, show a worst return of 47 penalties handed out by Didier Mené of France, during the World Cup match between England and Italy...



Eales: busy season

No game as complex as rugby by can prosper if there is a penalty awarded every other minute and, even when teams have tried to sustain the action with a tapped penalty, all too frequently they have been called back...

In addition, the laws differ — in this country at least — between club and country. The yellow card remains a feature of international rugby...

All of which suggests that Paddy O'Brien, the experienced New Zealand official who was the recipient — as a touch judge — of a fine pass from Mike Catt on Saturday...

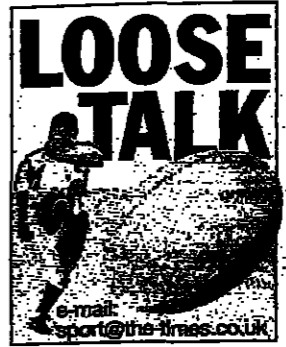
The weight of history will be pressing down on him, but it is worth remembering that England, a year ago, saved their best for last in a game of quality and drama with New Zealand that ended 26-26...



Mené littered the World Cup qualifier between England and Italy at Huddersfield last month with a plethora of penalties. Photograph: David Rogers/Allsport

England put their shirt on hoops for Sydney

Australia may have headed home after their narrow squeak over England in the Cook Cup international last weekend, but already thoughts are turning to the next encounter in Sydney on June 26 next year...



LOOSE TALK

One or two clubs are angry that they have been painted as the bad boys for the Rugby Football Union's decision not to send a team to the Hong Kong Sevens next year...

Rugby clubs and schools in the Bristol area have the chance next week to win Bob Dwyer for the night. The Australia World Cup-winning coach has agreed to be a raffie prize to aid Oxford's Central Australian appeal...

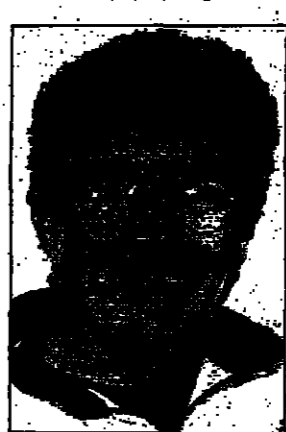
referred. "Early on, Jim Teffer gave Billy's arm a tug and it clicked back into place. He went on to play a stormer."

Flying visit

First we had the Newcastle Falcons, now it's the Henley Hawks, who have gone one step further by actually acquiring a live mascot for the 1st XV...

Prize guy

Rugby clubs and schools in the Bristol area have the chance next week to win Bob Dwyer for the night. The Australia World Cup-winning coach has agreed to be a raffie prize to aid Oxford's Central Australian appeal...



Dwyer: helping Oxford

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Paterson vacates Scottish position

DUNCAN PATERSON, the executive board chairman of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU), yesterday announced that he is to tender his resignation from all posts that he holds on the union with immediate effect...

They will soon be swapping fax hats for mortarboards at Vicarage Road with the news that Saracens have launched a new degree course with Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College...

In honour of their most loyal supporter, Mrs E. Mainwaring, Aberavon RFC will next month hold a gala dinner to mark her 70-year connection with the club...

Suffolk police are warning clubs to be on their guard against a conman who has twice tricked teams into parting with their valuables. The most recent incident happened at Bury St Edmunds before their cup-tie with Harpenden...

Table with sports results: AMERICAN FOOTBALL, BOWLS, BOXING, FOOTBALL, TENNIS, GOLF, ICE HOCKEY, SQUASH

Table with sports results: AMERICAN FOOTBALL, BOWLS, BOXING, FOOTBALL, TENNIS, GOLF, ICE HOCKEY, SQUASH

Faltering left wing of unc... Hick run of hum... W... 3000

Beauchamp remains to the Manor born



Oliver Holt talks to one of a dying breed in football, a player who wants to play for just one club

Joey Beauchamp has taken his turn as the bearded lady in the football funfair before. The last time that Oxford United transferred him, he was made into a laughing stock when he pleaded homesickness. Eventually, he made it back to the Manor Ground and rebuilt his career and his reputation — but now the club wants to sell him again and the freak-show fans are beginning to titter.

If his situation was not so bitterly ironic and unfair, it would be achingly funny. Impoverished, desperate for money to keep them from sliding into administration, Oxford have accepted offers for Beauchamp, their best player and most saleable asset, from five different clubs this season. On four occasions, he has refused to go. The fifth, to Nottingham Forest, broke down before he could say no.

As one transfer collapse followed another, the Oxford staff, many of whom have not been paid for seven weeks because of the club's parlous financial position, tore out a few more tufts of their own hair and took another despairing look at their bare cupboards. "Joey Beauchamp is going nowhere," Malcolm Shotton, the Oxford manager, told me on Monday afternoon. It was not said with defiance — Shotton sounded despairing.

It is not the prospect of success that is keeping Beauchamp at the increasingly dilapidated Manor Ground. Despite three consecutive victories, Oxford are still firmly in the bottom half of the Nationwide League first division, are £13 million in debt and losing an estimated £150,000 a month. Hardly the place for a talented winger like Beauchamp to further his career.

Beauchamp's desire to stay is rooted in deeper reasons than that. He loves the club. He loves Oxford. The Dreaming Spire may not do much for him, but he is a regular at the greyhound track near Cowley and he has never lived more than a mile from the Manor Ground all of his life. First, it was the tough community of Barton, then Cutteslowe. Now, he lives in Headington. He can walk to the ground in the morning to get ready for training.

Many will mock him again for his lack of ambition. They will call him a home boy, a mummy's boy. The irony, though, is that most clubs crave loyalty like his in their



For Beauchamp, Oxford born and bred, the Manor Ground is a home from home, the only place that he wants to play football

players and lament its passing on a daily basis. In that respect, Beauchamp is one of the last of a dying breed, a footballer who puts his own allegiance to his club and his town above greed for success and money.

The pity is that he is being made to feel guilty for that loyalty. The club's woes have eased a little in the wake of the sale yesterday Phil Whitehead, the goalkeeper, to West Bromwich Albion for £250,000, but

there is still an unspoken pressure on Beauchamp to go. "Joey loves this club," Shotton said last week, "but if he does not move on, there might not be any club left to love."

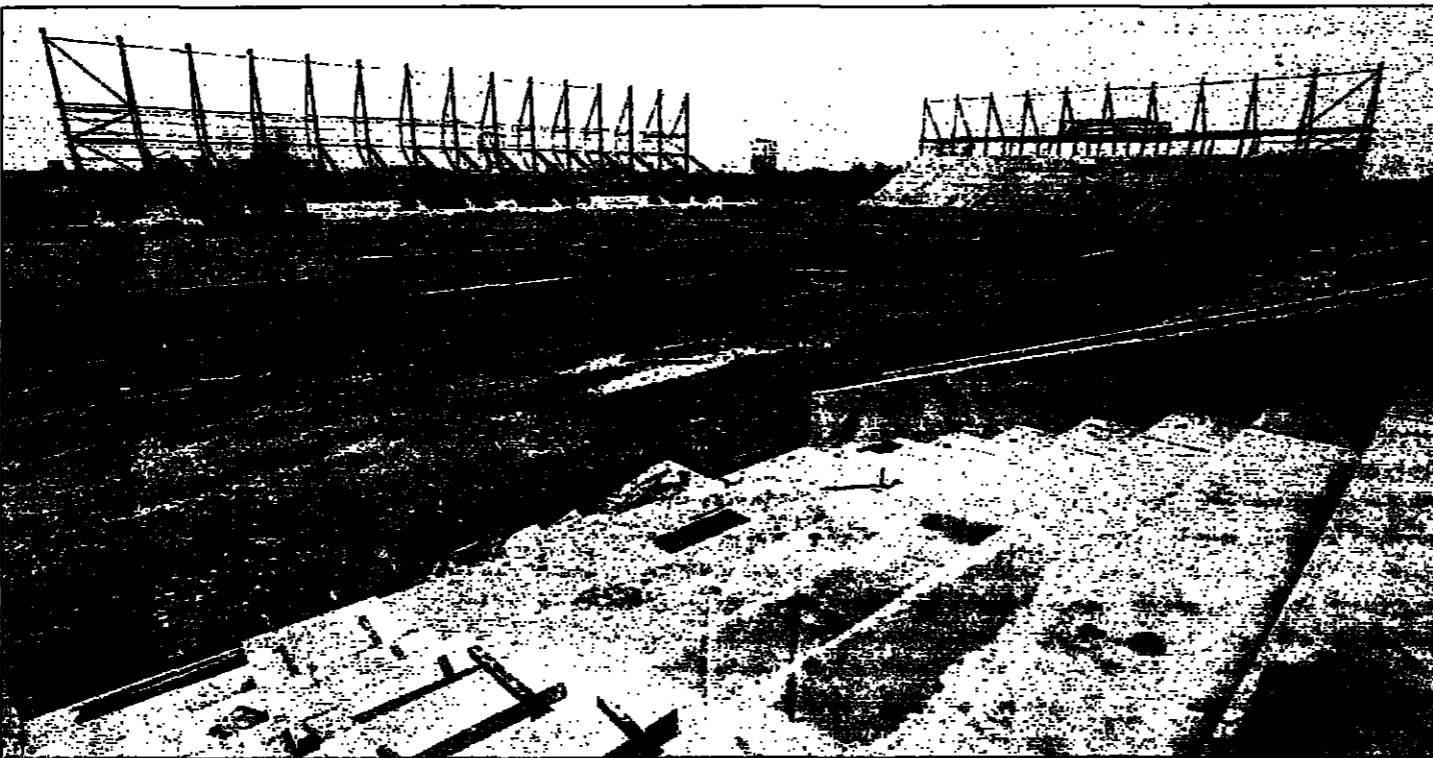
Beauchamp is 27 now, a shy, slightly introverted character who comes alive on the football pitch. He scored 19 goals for Oxford last season playing at left wing. At one stage, Manchester City were said to be willing to pay £1.7 million for him. Fulham wanted him, too. So

did Southampton, Forest and another unnamed FA Carling Premiership club that he did not even want to talk to. They were each willing to pay £800,000.

"I have always said I have no problem with moving on," Beauchamp said yesterday. "It is just that I have turned down the terms other clubs have offered me. I know that the pressure has been on me to go to get money in for the club, but it has to be right for me, too. Things

could turn around here, anyway, if we get new backers in."

"Even when I moved away, to West Ham and then Swindon, I wanted to come back here. They got me on the cheap when I came back and I thought I would stay here for the rest of my career. I would be happy to do that. It is just unfortunate that everyone seems to want to rush my transfer through, but I suppose there are not many other players they could sell for a lot of money."



Construction work on Oxford United's new stadium at Minchery Farm had to be halted because of the club's financial predicament

United to keep plenty in reserve

By Russell Kempson

TOTTENHAM Hotspur against Manchester United is a fixture that usually conjures visions of fast, frenetic play, dazzling individual skills and a liberal sprinkling of goals. When they meet in the quarter-finals of the Worthington Cup at White Hart Lane this evening, Tottenham against Manchester United reserves does not quite produce the same sense of anticipation.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, may not view the competition with open contempt, but he sees it as little more than a tool with which he can manipulate his squad to the best effect.

If United meekly bow out of the cup, as they did against Ipswich Town, of the Nationwide League first division, last season, so be it. Ferguson will note the promising performances of his youngsters and the fitness levels of those previously injured but, ultimately, he will lose no sleep over it.

At least the return of Teddy Sheringham, from recurring injury and regular non-selection, provides an intriguing subplot. The former Tottenham striker has started only two matches this season — the last of which was against Bayern Munich on September 30 — and he will be grateful for the chance to remind Ferguson of his availability for more serious combat.

So, too, among United's many young pretenders, will Ryan Giggs, Ole Gunnar Solskjær and Henning Berg, United's second XI, can also prove fairly potent and George Graham, the Tottenham manager, will not be fooled. "They don't really have reserves, do they?" he said. "If they do, then most of them are still 'household names'."

Graham, who won the competition in his first season as manager of Arsenal, said: "It would be great if a similar thing could happen at Tottenham, especially as it still carries the reward of a European place for the winners. This is a massive match for us."

Leicester City, who meet Blackburn Rovers at Ellerb Street, also treat the competition with the utmost respect. It is not surprising, perhaps, considering that they won it when it was known as the Coca-Cola Cup two seasons ago.

"Winning it was the highlight of my managerial career," Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, said. "You get a taste for those things. I'd love to win it again and I'd love managers to continue to put out reserve sides. I'd love it if they didn't bother to turn up to play us."

Seriously, though, playing in a final at Wembley and having a European place on offer still has its kudos.

'I thought I would stay here for the rest of my career. I would be happy to do that'

In the club offices, where things reportedly have got so bad that they have been accepting gifts of food hampers and free doughnuts from well-wishers, Keith Cox, the club's managing director, is still putting a brave face on Oxford's predicament and Beauchamp's reluctance to leave. In fact, his case is so convincing that one gets the impression that Oxford would not be in their present state if he had been brought in sooner. The staff can be paid now that Whitehead's transfer has gone through, he says, and the level of debt is not quite what it seems. There is still hope that the half-built stadium that stands eerily on the outskirts of the city like some ghostly shipwreck could be completed for the start of next season, if new backers are found.

In addition, now that Beauchamp seems to be staying, they have their best player to rely on, too. "Joey's sort of loyalty and wish to play for his hometown club is almost gone from the game now," Cox said, "and that is something that the fans can relate to. I would not slaughter him for what he has done. However difficult it has made my job in past weeks, I respect his right to stay."

"Now that we have accepted that he is not moving, any negative aspects of the saga are converted to positives because he is a superb player who is wanted by a lot of Premiership clubs and now we know that he will be with us and doing his best for us."

"It is important for him to be honest with himself about whether he ever wants to play for a Premiership club, because when he turned down Fulham and Manchester City, that was the reason he gave. Southampton was a place he could have actually commuted to from Oxford — he could have been one of the prime beneficiaries of the Newbury bypass — but it didn't happen and I think a strong element of why it didn't happen was because he didn't want to go."

Smith concentrates on job in hand

By Stephen Wood

HIS demeanour suggested that it was his resolve that had broken, that he was the one who had heaped turmoil on Everton. In fact, Walter Smith, the manager, was the victor in the power struggle at Goodison Park but, in keeping with his dignified character, he eschewed the chance to gloat yesterday and focused solely on the footballing side of his job.

Indeed, if Smith's morale is low, that is of no great surprise because, regardless of the events of the past nine days, he is still in charge of a squad that is more than capable of being relegated from the FA Carling Premiership by the end of the season.

Yesterday, Smith indulged himself in every on-field matter that he could think of, from the possible transfer of Tony Thomas, a reserve-team defender, to Motherwell to the prospect of Danny Cadamarteri's impending suspension. His private thoughts on Peter Johnson, the outgoing chairman, remained shut.

However, Smith knows better than most on Merseyside what an important breakthrough he has made for the

future welfare of Everton. In standing up to Johnson over the saga of Duncan Ferguson's transfer to Newcastle United, in threatening to resign his position if Johnson did not act in an honourable manner, he achieved what other managers failed to do during Johnson's four-and-a-half-year tenancy.

Mike Walker, Howard Kendall and, in particular, Joe Royle, were all hampered as managers of the club, between 1994 and last season, and the coinciding lack of success



Johnson: selling up

counted against Johnson in his eternal conflict with disgruntled supporters. Now, however, Smith must show that Everton can prosper once more, free of Johnson's debilitating mixture of interference and indifference.

"It's been hectic recently, and I am looking forward to returning to an air of normality," Smith said. "However, I am confident that the upheaval has not affected the playing side of the club, and that is the area that concerns me most."

Everton have put together two successive Premiership victories, but they remain seventh from bottom of the table. With Smith cautious, it was left to Sir Philip Carter, the returning chairman, to dare to look ahead. Sir Philip was chairman in the 1980s, which saw a period of unprecedented success in the club's history, and he said: "I feel I know the club as well as anyone and I hope I am held in high regard by the supporters."

"My job is to get the club back on an even keel and help it to recover. I will work with the management and the

coaching staff to get things right."

Sir Philip and Bill Kenwright, the new vice-chairman, have informed Smith of the club's £15 million overdraft and have reiterated the need to trim the size of the first-team squad. Crucially, however, this will be done in consultation with the manager, not behind his back.

The club is also about to put on hold plans that were first instigated by Johnson to move to a new stadium on the outskirts of Liverpool city centre.



Smith: dignified

In the meantime, Johnson, who has become executive director, will sell his 58 per cent majority shareholding to the highest bidder. His stake is worth around £60 million but, realistically, any prospective buyer would have to come in with at least £90 million, to manage the debts and to set up another transfer fund for Smith to strengthen what is still an average squad.

Kenwright, the theatre impresario, is 'favourite' to mount a consortium to buy out Johnson, and he could be backed by the personal wealth of Lord Grantham, the Staffordshire-based landholder, the grandson of Sir John Moores, the former Everton chairman and founder of Littlewoods Pools. It is already a member of the Everton board.

Leeds United still hope to sign David Batty from Newcastle United, despite a disagreement over the England midfielder's market value. Leeds have bid £30 million for Batty, who is 33 today, while Newcastle want in the region of £6 million. Peter Ridsdale, the Leeds chairman, said: "We will not pay over the odds for any player."

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

The Times Organic Christmas pudding with mead



This year we are offering readers a Christmas pudding made to a new recipe. For the first time, Frances Bissell has been able to develop an organic pudding to her own recipe by the award-winning Village Bakery in Cumbria, which specialises in organic foods. Not only is the pudding organic, it is also suitable for vegetarians as it contains no animal fats. As well as the traditional vine fruits, the pudding

contains dried apricots, prunes, hazelnuts and walnuts, and — best of all — organic English mead. Weighing 900g, it is suitable for a family and can be reheated by steaming or in the microwave. Full instructions are on the packaging. Serve with traditional brandy butter, fresh cream, vanilla ice-cream or creme fraiche. Available to readers for only £11.95, including postage and packing.

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10/11 TOTTENHAM 5/2 DRAW MAN.UTD 9/4

White Hart Lane, Kick-off 7.45pm, Live on Sky

| CORRECT SCORE | MAN.UTD | MALTIME | 5/2 DRAW |
|---------------|---------|---------|----------|
| 0/1 | 1-0 | 2/1 | 14/1 |
| 1/2 | 2-1 | 11/1 | 33/1 |
| 16/1 | 3-0 | 33/1 | 9/2 |
| 44/1 | 3-1 | 33/1 | 5/1 |
| 28/1 | 3-2 | 25/1 | 13/2 |
| 10/1 | 0-0 | 10/1 | 25/1 |
| 12/1 | 1-1 | 13/2 | 14/1 |
| 16/1 | 1-2 | 14/1 | 9/2 |

Other scores on request.

FIRST GOALSCORER

| | |
|------|----------------|
| 9/2 | ARMSTRONG (T) |
| 9/2 | FORDHAM (T) |
| 7/1 | GILKHA (T) |
| 7/1 | SOLSKJAER (M) |
| 8/1 | SHERINGHAM (M) |
| 10/1 | ANDERSON (T) |
| 10/1 | CRUYFF (M) |
| 12/1 | FOX (T) |
| 20/1 | MUTT (M) |
| 10/1 | NO GOALSCORER |

Own goals do not count. No other players on request.

© ALL ABOVE BETS - EXTRA TIME DOES NOT COUNT. FOR ALL THE MIDWINTER FOOTBALL PRICES SEE CH4 TIME P601/2/3

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY
Srikumar

Fight

Lastman ba

BOWLS
Duff under his world ra

By David Ross

Srikumar Sen finds boxing taking former champions on board

Fight game adopts friendly face

BILLY WALKER and Nicky Piper, two of the most popular fighters of the past 36 years, joined the British Boxing Board of Control (BBC) yesterday as administrative stewards.



Piper, left, Rolleston and Walker will give boxing a fresh image, friendlier, perhaps, than Walker in his heyday, below, against Karl Mildnerberger in 1967

Walker admitted that his success as a professional was due to one contest - as an amateur. When Great Britain met the United States in 1961, Britain were leading 9-0 and it was up to Walker to complete the whitewash.

Walker knocked him out in the first round. "I found this lucky punch and knocked him out," he said. "I should really have kissed him afterwards because after that the professional managers wanted me and I never looked back."

At present, he is the anchor-man for television weekend sports programmes on BBC Wales. Although a member of MENSAs, Piper admits that the thought of presenting a live television show was as daunting as facing up to the prospect of meeting Nigel Benn in 1992.

Piper is the first Welsh boxer since Jack Petersen and Cliff Curvis to become an administrative steward of the board. He is chairman of the Professional Boxers' Association, but said that he will be giving up the post.



Dispute takes the shine off Westwood

By Our Sports Staff

LEE WESTWOOD has had his reputation in Australia dented by claims that he returned badly damaged Australian Open trophy to the Australian Golf Union (AGU). Westwood is not defending the title in Adelaide this week, having decided instead to accept an invitation to the Million Dollar Challenge at Sun City in South Africa.

Westwood said that he was surprised by the comments. "The trophy was returned on September 21 and duly signed for by the Australian Golf Union as being received in perfect condition," he said.

Westwood kisses the trophy after his victory last year. "The seven months have been really beneficial to me," he said. "I've been reflecting. I have a very different approach and attitude. I look forward to going out to play, although playing is not the major priority. There is not one bit wrong with my life right now."



Westwood kisses the trophy after his victory last year

Eastman banks on help of Davies

HOWARD EASTMAN will rely on Ronnie Davies, the former trainer of Chris Eubank, to bring him up to the standard required to lift a world title.

Eastman put his unimpressive defeat of Steve Foster, whom he stopped in seven rounds, down to rustiness. Davies said that Eastman had a tendency to box according to the quality of opponent before him.

Eastman said: "The promoters have to look at me and say when it is time to put the next gear on - the world title. I need something exciting to prove myself."

fighters in my time and he's a good one. He boxed in second gear, but I think he has a third and fourth gear as well.

Duff underlines his world rating

THE historic Kelvin Hall in Glasgow, which has housed a wide range of sports, is the venue for the world of jacks and woods this week.

McMahon, who lacks match practice, started ineffectually, and looked in trouble when David Gourlay, the new Open champion, poked the first set, 7-4, and led 5-3 after six ends in the second set.

Sohail not worth place, chief selector says

CRICKET: Wasim Bari, the Pakistan chief selector, said yesterday that Asim Sohail was not worth his position in the national team on performance alone.

Sohail, who led Pakistan in their seven-wicket defeat in the first Test against Zimbabwe on Monday, has been the target of heavy media criticism over the past two days.

Ford remains on board

MOTOR RACING: Ford has prolonged its contract with Stewart Grand Prix team - for whom Johnny Herbert, of Britain, will drive next year - until 2001.

Price, who lost in the gold medal play-off at this year's Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, did not have things all his own way but finally managed to beat his fellow Wales international Robert Weale 7-2, 7-4. Weale was a late replacement for Ian Schiback, who withdrew.

Vikings re-sign Hansen

RUGBY LEAGUE: Widnes Vikings, of the first division, yesterday signed Lee Hansen, 30, the Tonga prop forward, for a second time, on a free transfer from Keighley Cougars.

Widnes shareholders have approved the sale of their 40 per cent share in the Auto Quest Stadium to Haindon Borough Council, which will become the sole owners.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL: FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Hartley v Aylesbury, First round: Hartley v Aylesbury, First round: Hartley v Aylesbury.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Hartley v Aylesbury, First round: Hartley v Aylesbury, First round: Hartley v Aylesbury.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Dornoch v Fraserburgh, Ross v Wick, Dingwall v Wick.

RUGBY UNION: WORLD CUP: European qualifying zone: Pool three: Spain v Portugal (at Murrayfield, 8.0)

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1998-99 IMPERIAL COLLEGE

Notice is hereby given that application is being made to Parliament by the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine (Imperial College) and Wye College for leave to introduce in the present Session a Bill (the Bill) under the above name or short title for the purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

- 1. To make provision for the saving of agreements, deeds, actions, etc. and for the construction of bequests, etc. in respect of Wye College.
2. To make provision for the saving of agreements, deeds, actions, etc. and for the construction of bequests, etc. in respect of Wye College.

On and after 4th December 1998 a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof may be obtained at the price of £1 each at the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, Shepherd Building, Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2AZ, at the office of the Clerk to the Governing Body of Wye College, High Street, Wye, Adurford, Kent TN25 5AH and at the offices of the undersigned Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents.

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1998-99 UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Notice is hereby given that application is being made to Parliament by University College London (the College) and the Eastman Dental Institute (the Institute) for leave to introduce in the present Session a Bill (the Bill) under the above name or short title for the purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

- 1. To unite the Institute with the College on the day appointed and to provide for the dissolution of the Institute.
2. To transfer to the College all rights, properties and liabilities of the Institute.

On and after 4th December 1998 a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof may be obtained at the price of £1 each at University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, the Eastman Dental Institute, 256 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1A 8LD and at the offices of the undersigned Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE BRICK LAMBS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 40 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that the creditors of the above named company are to meet on 14th November 1998 at 10.00 am at the offices of the undersigned Insolvency Practitioner.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 24 November 1998 presented to the High Court of Justice for the winding up of the above named company.

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TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 40 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that any person having a claim against or in respect of the above named company is to send particulars of such claim or interest to the undersigned Insolvency Practitioner.

Packs designed to stop you packing it in

Everything has its place and purpose in Nature's mysterious grand scheme of things (possibly even including Noel Edmonds), so we can only assume that tobacco — so far from being the unsocial evil it has now been branded — was specifically invented by Nature to be another of man's many insidious habits, alongside hunting, fishing, procuring, and switching channels whenever Noel's *House Party* comes on the telly. If tobacco wasn't meant to be rolled into cigarettes and puffed from improbable orifices by strippers on stag nights, why would Nature have bothered inventing it?

That must explain why so many sportsmen and doctors used to endorse cigarettes. Flick through yellowing copies of *The New Yorker* and you'll see ads in which doctors recommend tennis players to smoke in order to improve their concentration on court. As we saw

in last night's episode of BBC2's small but entrancing series *Wrappers*, cigarettes were marketed almost as health aids until the 1960s — when the design of cigarette packs changed forever. Once it became clear that smoking had health implications, manufacturers were no longer allowed to use images that might suggest that inhaling 20 a day would help you win an Olympic gold for the 100 metres. The Cigarette "A" pack used to boast not only that it had been awarded the Certificate of the Institute of Hygiene for Quality and Purity, but also that Craven "A's" were "made specially to prevent sore throats". It was partly this healthy, sporty image that helped cigarettes to become the cheapest way for people to aspire to a higher class. They were the Rocky Sharps of the consumer world.

Weddings were for those who knew their place. But social climbers could pump for Murrain cigarettes: the packet showed a toff in an armchair with his legs crossed, enjoying the sophisticated bliss of a cigarette. Kenistat's had an obnoxious-butler on the pack, announcing, "Your Kenistat, Sir, announcing," for the cost of a few coins, you had your own servants. So what if they were only one inch tall and made of cardboard? The first Marlboros were designed not for American men from cowboy country but for American women from cocktail party country; they had red filter tips to disguise lipstick marks.

The upper classes, jolted by the ease with which the raw, dry middle classes could, for the modest price of a pack of *Passing Clouds*, pass themselves off as people with a bit of tone and breeding, raised the stakes by transferring their cigarettes from their packs to expensive silver cigarette cases instead. As Tony Blair will no doubt be finding out as he

presses ahead with his plan to deny hereditary peers the right to vote in the House of Lords, the aristocracy are quick on their feet, adaptable, inventive, and always ready to protect their interests: that's how they got to own half the real estate in England in the first place.

Smoking has such a public relations problem at the moment that Saint Delia Smith may be the only

person who could reverse cigarette-manufacturers' fortunes. In last night's *Delia's How To Cook* (BBC2) she was doing her bit for that other famous American export, potatoes. She reprised her famous recipe for crunchy roast potatoes — although with a twist (some ground saffron in the oil), in order to show us that she's still keen to experiment and learn. There was perfect mash, crispy jacket potatoes, trout oil and salt into the skin before baking slowly, warm potato salad, oven-chips, garnish — every dish underpinned by her sensible philosophy that "the art of cooking potatoes properly is to make them taste like potatoes".

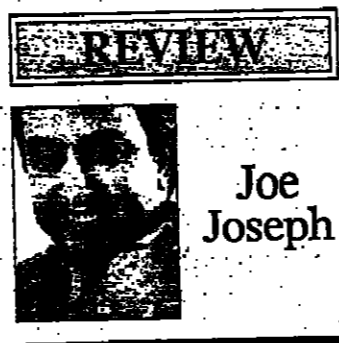
Having already dramatically boosted the sale of eggs and of a humble onionset pan through her tacit endorsement of their versatility and reliability, respectively, you can imagine what effect it would have on cigarette sales if we were to see somebody as trustworthy as

Delia peeling a King Edward's with a Lucky Strike hanging out of the side of her mouth. If she ever went so far as to roll a Havana cigar in the traditional Cuban manner, on the inside of her thigh, she could easily turn the Home Counties Communist overnight.

Why we all admire Delia is because she doesn't seem to have lost her common touch even though she is now richer than Brazil's national soccer squad, and wields more real influence in Britain than the entire Conservative front bench. Back to the Floor (BBC2) is a series which tries to show Britain's bosses just how out of touch they have become since they rose to a position where they could choose their office desk from a Christie's auction catalogue rather than from an office furniture brochure.

Last night Peter Davies, the Director-General of the RSPCA, quit his grand Georgian office for a week to work as an inspector on the beat in Leeds, a city which attracts more reports of animal cruelty than anywhere else in Britain. Davies — scampering around like a frisky terrier who is baffled by the inexplicable disappearance of a tennis ball he had in his sights only two seconds ago — was jolted to hear of the many administrative pressures his front-line inspectors face. But yet more harrowing for them is the emotional strain of seeing so many animals so mistreated by their owners.

The job-swap only redoubled Davies's belief in the RSPCA: he proudly championed the organisation as "part of the fabric of our British life", implying that we're a nation of animal-lovers. But wide-spread cruelty to animals must also be part of the fabric of British life — otherwise why would the RSPCA need to be quite so big or so powerful?



Joe Joseph

presses ahead with his plan to deny hereditary peers the right to vote in the House of Lords, the aristocracy are quick on their feet, adaptable, inventive, and always ready to protect their interests: that's how they got to own half the real estate in England in the first place.

Smoking has such a public relations problem at the moment that Saint Delia Smith may be the only

6.00am Business Breakfast (42227)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (71481)
9.00 Midway (7586182)
9.40 Style Challenge (154444)
10.05 City Hospital (732892)
10.55 News: Regional News; Weather (7405192)
11.00 News: Living with Jane Asher (4077869)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7407056)
11.55 News: Regional News; Weather (11985005)
12.00 Pass the Buck (6674666)
12.25pm Going for the Green (9653173)
12.50 The Weather Show (7342695)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (715598)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (5732288)
1.40 Neighbours Bill gets a dream job offer (7773155)
2.05 Ironside Police refuse to accept a financier's murder confession, convinced his story doesn't ring true (7372694)
2.55 Wipeout; Consuming Passions (4025802)
3.25 Children's BBC; Plays (9514173)
3.45 Bananas (6751802)
3.50 ChuckVision (381858)
4.00 Get Your Own (7197573)
4.35 The Queen's Nose (9187553)
5.00 Newsround (2714531)
5.10 Blue Peter (9437647)
5.35 Neighbours (71728734)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (7189)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (89)
7.00 A Question of Sport (10958)
Darren Campbell, Gary McWilliam and Lee Westwood join the exclusive Ally McCoist and John Paton (76579)
7.30 World's Worst: Show girls who cheat the wheel of a car while they sleep, using a pioneering system that assumes control in traffic jams (7153)
8.00 The Life of Brian: David Attenborough investigates how birds find partners, revealing the bizarre mating rituals and extraordinary displays they use to catch a female's fancy (7148753)
8.50 The National: Sydney: Swimming: Look! Shelia Carl Smith investigates the lost medal of soccer legend Bobby Moore (759268)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (7066)
9.30 National Lottery Update (76592)
9.30 Where Were You? Pyjamas, Passions and Passions: Players and fans recall the encounter between England and Argentina in this summer's World Cup (734111)
10.30 War and Peace: New Year's Eve, but first personal problems aplenty as their hangovers wear off (862376)
10.50 The Richard Dimbleby Lecture: A look at the former US Senator George Mitchell's role in the Northern Ireland Peace Talks (733227)
11.35 Mean Machine (1974): Action comedy starring Buster Keaton as an imprisoned alcoholic footballer who bleaches into training an invincible team to play against the warriors. Directed by Robert Aldrich (7188262)
1.00am Weather (7651680)
1.30 BBC News 24 (10513932)

7.00am Children's BBC: Breakfast Show: King George VI (984821)
7.05 Teletubbies (5865468)
7.30 Tom and Jerry Kids (8627043)
7.55 10 Me, To You (1540397)
8.20 Robinson: Suzoo (9763868)
8.45 Junior Jungle (3725802)
9.00 King George VI (9754514)
9.05 Space Ark (3936342)
9.10 What's the Matter? (7222279)
9.25 Who? (381914)
9.45 Words and Pictures (381947)
10.00 Teletubbies (68192)
10.30 Numberline (4350111)
10.45 Watch (4363888)
11.00 Around Scotland (4734)
11.30 Geography Programme (979630)
11.40 Science in Action (1405550)
12.00pm Teaching Today (13578)
12.30 Working Lunch (49482)
1.00 Junior Jungle (2170514)
1.30 The Arts and Crafts Hour: Moulding techniques (863140)
2.10 Match of the Day: Great West Bromwich Albion v Arsenal
2.40 News; Weather (715598)
2.45 Westminster with Diana Middle Prime Minister's Question Time (7332647)
3.00 News; Weather (715598)
4.00 Change That (715598)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (7650753)
4.55 Esther (715598)
5.30 Call My Blame (715598)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation: Wesley returns to find the crew entangled in a deadly game (715598)
6.45 Sideways: Bart, one of the travellers visit a peaceful world threatened with imminent extinction (7837288)
7.30 Behind Closed Doors: A look inside The University Women's Club (94) (715598)
8.00 Looking Good: Lowi Turner investigates whether wearing the right clothes can lead to promotion (715598)
8.30 Home Front: Kevin provides moving ideas for a bathroom (74376)
9.00 News: The students pursue their chosen areas of training (787005)
9.30 Naked Men and women discuss the role their bodies play in achieving a successful and happy life (715598)
10.20 Video Nani Shorts (718581)
10.30 Newsnight Presented by Jeremy Paxman (717005)
11.15 Brothers and Sisters: Max is confronted by an enraged Lindsay, and Alica faces a dilemma (468602)
11.35 Weather (127276)
12.00 Despatch Book (12241)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Arts: Late: The Golden Thread: 1.00 Who's Body? 1.30 Democracy in the Making 2.00 Schools: English 4.00 Deutsch Plus 17-20 5.00 Business and Training 5.45 OU: Shaping Up 6.10 Why Do Peacocks Have Elaborate Tails? 6.35 A Vulnerable Life

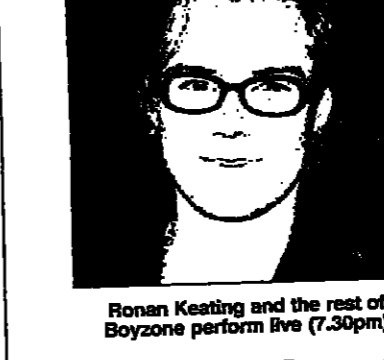
5.30am ITN Morning News (63208)
6.00 GMTV (1654753)
9.25 Trisha (728544)
10.15 This Morning (391314)
10.25pm HTV News and Weather (7302053)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (74268)
1.00 Shortland Street (24896)
1.30 Home and Away (742578)
2.00 Christmas Home in the Country Ideas for the festive season (28) (5698482)
2.40 Supermarket Sweep (74054314)
3.10 ITN News Headlines (7837227)
3.15 HTV News (715598)
3.30 City: Wadzora (8353463)
3.30 The Suv Norris (8435024)
3.45 The Animal Shelf (9430579)
4.00 Rupert (9534192)
4.25 The Rottenrots (1739753)
4.40 Mad for It (1273888)
5.10 WEST: Wildlife Rescue (46) (8247568)
5.10 WALLES: PrimeTime Diary (718247568)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (715598)
5.55 HTV Coasttoppers (213734)
6.00 Home and Away (715598)
6.25 WALLES: Wales Tonight; Weather (720268)
6.35 WEST: HTV Weather (10648)
7.00 The West Tonight (715598)
7.00 Emmerdale (718247)
7.30 Coronation Street: Leanne catches Nick in a compromising position (715598)
8.00 Celebrity Stars in Their Eyes: Top television stars become their musical heroes in a special edition of the talent contest. Including the National Lottery Result (7178)



Ulrika Jonsson offers up a prime specimen of manhood (9pm)

8.00 Men for Sale: Ulrika Jonsson and Denise Van Outen host a unique charity auction from London's Royal Garden Hotel, in which an all-female audience bid for dates with celebrity men (71787)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (755014)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (7834005)
10.40 Clive James on TV Sitcoms (794847)
11.10 WEST: West Match Plus Football League action (722299)
11.10 WALLES: The Comedy of Terrors (1963): An undertaker in debt has to resort to sinister methods in order to make some money. With Vincent Price. Directed by Jacques Tourneur (83395)
12.10am Tales from the Darkside: A student's wardrobe conceals a pint-sized gremlin born on mischief (7182203)
12.40 The Buddy Holly Story (1978): Musical biopic, starring Gary Busy as the legendary rock 'n' roller. Directed by Clint Eastwood (3618808)
2.45 Trisha (715598)
3.25 Cybernet (9903660)
4.05 Box Office America (87225425)
4.30 TV Nightscreen (41393)
5.00 Coronation Street (715598)

6.00am Sesame Street (35937)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (98821)
9.00 Schools:
9.00 The Mbc Petruska (11111) 9.30 Rat-A-Tat-Tat (381260) 9.45 Book Box: Bill's New Frock (3829043) 10.00 Stage Two Science: Habbits (385260) 10.15 Good Health (978111) 10.30 Top Gear (849531) 10.50 Lock, Listen: The Arts Card (942644) 11.00 First Edition V (9971260) 11.15 Inside Art (3894111)
11.30 Powerhouse (715598)
12.00 Sesame Street (72727)
12.30pm I Dream of Jeannie (734550)
1.00 Judge Joe Brown: A dancer sues her former partner (24668)
1.30 The Voice-Over Queen: Short film about an aspiring actress (75471647)
1.50 Kentucky (1938): The son of a horse-breeding family falls for the daughter of their arch-rivals. Romantic drama, starring Loretta Young and Richard Greene. Directed by David Butler (7147857)
3.30 Collectors' Lot: A hoard of whistles, a stash of memorabilia and a room full of Rupert the Bear memorabilia (743)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (715598)
4.30 Countdown (715598)
4.55 Ricki Lake (7407647)
5.30 Pat Rescue Roadshow: A carjack dog is treated (714)
6.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue Snappy: conversation with guests including Joanna Lumley (75869)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (7181613)
7.55 The 1998 Turner Prize: Writing About Art (752956)
8.00 Brookside: Luke comes to Kate's rescue (71527)
8.30 The Real Holiday Show: Includes A family holiday in London to pay tribute to Princess Diana (3/8) (719444)



Roman Keating and the rest of Boyzone perform live (7.30pm)

7.30 The Pepsit Card: Dr Fox presents a hip-and-happening half hour of live acts from the South Republic. Includes a performance from Boyzone. 5 News Update (291028)
8.00 The Sweeney: When the investigations take a surprising turn when he is seduced by a glamorous foreigner, can he keep his mind on the job in hand? Vintage cop drama, starring John Thaw and Dennis Waterman. (7) 5 News Update (614937)
9.00 Freebie and the Bean (1974): James Caan and Alan Arkin star as two hapless cops determined to taste glory. Directed by Richard Rush; (7) 5 News Update (4289549)
11.05 Melinda's Big Night In: With comedy duo Little and Large (296837)
11.45 The Streets of San Francisco: Part two. The duo continue to investigate the kidnapping of an entire jury (7) (2245482)
12.45am NHL: American Ice Hockey Pittsburgh Penguins at Anaheim Mighty Ducks (12561970)
4.40 Club Class (718164067)
5.05 Move on Up (718834338)
5.30 100 Per Cent (772657)

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SATELLITE AND CABLE

For further details see Saturday's Vision

SKY 1
7.00am The Simpsons (25591) 7.30 The City Centre (57150) 8.00 The Simpsons (25591) 8.30 The Simpsons (25591) 9.00 The Simpsons (25591) 9.30 The Simpsons (25591) 10.00 The Simpsons (25591) 10.30 The Simpsons (25591) 11.00 The Simpsons (25591) 11.30 The Simpsons (25591) 12.00 The Simpsons (25591) 12.30 The Simpsons (25591) 1.00 The Simpsons (25591) 1.30 The Simpsons (25591) 2.00 The Simpsons (25591) 2.30 The Simpsons (25591) 3.00 The Simpsons (25591) 3.30 The Simpsons (25591) 4.00 The Simpsons (25591) 4.30 The Simpsons (25591) 5.00 The Simpsons (25591) 5.30 The Simpsons (25591) 6.00 The Simpsons (25591) 6.30 The Simpsons (25591) 7.00 The Simpsons (25591) 7.30 The Simpsons (25591) 8.00 The Simpsons (25591) 8.30 The Simpsons (25591) 9.00 The Simpsons (25591) 9.30 The Simpsons (25591) 10.00 The Simpsons (25591) 10.30 The Simpsons (25591) 11.00 The Simpsons (25591) 11.30 The Simpsons (25591) 12.00 The Simpsons (25591) 12.30 The Simpsons (25591) 1.00 The Simpsons (25591) 1.30 The Simpsons 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BOXING 45

Walker returns to centre stage as Board steward

SPORT

POWERBOATING 46

Wild thing throttles back on speed to leap up rankings



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2 1998

Cricket ready for change Counties to heed toll of division bell

By RICHARD HOBSON

OFFICIALS of the county cricket clubs are braced to make the most radical change to the structure of the first-class game in England this century. Over the next two days, they seem almost certain to reverse their decision of a year ago and vote for the introduction of a two-division championship from 2000 onwards in an attempt to improve the wellbeing of the national side.

Worcestershire and the six counties with headquarters at Test match grounds, who supported the two-division proposal in 1997.

When the chairmen and chief executives assembled at a consultative meeting in October the feeling was that change had to follow to narrow the gap between international and county cricket. Under the proposal each division will have nine counties with three sides promoted and relegated every season. The top nine in the table next year will form the first division in 2000.

Troubled Cork...43 MacGill lying in wait...43

The words of David Collier, the Leicestershire chief executive, were typical. "We will listen to the arguments on the day, but we very much want to support it provided there is a proper budget and business plan laid down to back it up," he said.

Colin Sextone, his counterpart at Gloucestershire, stressed the importance of avoiding a free-for-all in the movement of players, which he believes would threaten the livelihood of the smaller counties. He said: "We are probably going to go along

with it, as long as there are financial and registration safeguards. I am sure the Board would agree with that."

Indeed, having been caught out last year, it is inconceivable that the Board will be as poorly prepared this time around. Tim Lamb, the ECB chief executive, said: "England's performances continue to be inconsistent and we have been able to provide much more information to accompany the basic proposal for a two-division championship. Counties generally feel a little bit more comfortable with the idea."

If "no change is not an option", to quote the mantra of the Board, then the alternative is a proposal whereby the 18 counties split into six geographical areas of three counties each, from which 14-man squads will be chosen. Sides will compete on a round-robin basis at the beginning of the season, overlapping the opening stages of a championship campaign retaining its existing format. After the regional games, players will return to their counties for normal duty. A cynical interpretation is that this convoluted idea is on the table merely to make the simplicity of two divisions more attractive.

While the move towards two divisions represents a bold step, then final agreement on the contracting of England players to the Board appears to be a leap too far. Such a move is surely inevitable with the enlargement of the summer international programme to seven Tests and ten one-day internationals from 2000, but there is time to defer a decision until 1999.

Herein lies a great irony. The superiority of the "new" division one will be negated to an extent by the absence of the best players on England duty. It is already a weakness of the championship that the winners are often the county with the most players who are nearly, but not quite, good enough for international cricket and are therefore available for an entire summer.

One feature of the 1998 season was the lack of resistance shown by all too many counties in retrieving poor positions. A proposal to reduce the number of points for a win from 16 to 12, while increasing from three to four those available for a draw next season, ought to discourage the meek acquiescence that left the championship open to criticism of being a comfort zone. Also on the agenda is the idea of playing second XI games on uncovered pitches. Those old enough to remember the days before full covering in 1981 speak of a subsequent decline in technique among batsmen and accuracy among bowlers. With most of the delegates fitting into this category the resolution has every chance of succeeding.



Christian Panucci, left, and Fernando Sanz celebrate Real Madrid's victory over Vasco da Gama in the World Club Cup

Rovers' move for Kidd is rebuffed

By STEPHEN WOOD

BLACKBURN Rovers yesterday insisted their attempts to find a new manager were progressing well, although evidence to support that claim was rather scant.

Blackburn, searching for a successor to Roy Hodgson, who was sacked with the club bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, have drawn up a shortlist of targets, believed to contain five names. The list is down to three names today, however, after they were told that Brian Kidd and Colin Hendry are not available.

Kidd, the assistant manager to Alex Ferguson at Manchester United, was pinpointed as a perfect replacement by Jack Walker, the Blackburn owner, last week. Yesterday, Walker approached Martin Edwards, the United chairman, for permission to speak to Kidd, but was spurned in no uncertain terms. Edwards said: "They can only ask, but we have refused. I have told Brian of the situation and he accepts it. The point is that Brian approached us in the summer about a new contract and we arranged a new, four-year deal for him."

Kidd's basic salary of £500,000 a year, four times more than his current salary at Old Trafford, Ferguson said: "I don't want to even contemplate the thought of Kidd leaving. I don't think he would want to, anyway."

Tony Parkes, the caretaker manager at Blackburn, added two provisos, when he said: "Jack Walker has the money and the desire to return the club to its rightful position at the top of the Premiership, and what he wants he usually gets. I believe it will come down to how much Brian Kidd wants to be a manager."

Hendry, who left Blackburn last summer to join Rangers, of the Scottish Premier League, initially implied he might be interested in a player-manager position at Blackburn. However, yesterday, he said: "Management is something that will happen later. For the moment, my playing career carries on."

Thwarted on those two fronts, Blackburn are likely to turn to the other candidates such as Roy Evans, John Barnes and Howard Wilkinson. They would also be interested in taking Martin O'Neill from Leicester City, if O'Neill does not settle his internal disputes at Filbert Street.

THE SPLIT DECISION

Table with 2 columns: FIRST DIVISION and SECOND DIVISION. Lists counties for each division.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28.

No 1578

- ACROSS: 1 Flag, its bearer (6) 4 Undress (games) clothes (5) 8 Squeezes victim, dies young (Dikens) (5) 9 More wonderful: water find-er (7) 10 In the past (3) 11 Straight (theatre) (abbr.) (5) 12 Walling Irish spirit (7) 14 Jerz winc (6) 16 Situated at intervals (6) 20 Chess after queens exchanged (7) 23 Amusing: a magazine (5) 24 Child's bed (3) 25 Tendency to stay put: laziness (loosely) (7) 26 Customary (5) 27 Feeling vertiginous (5) SOLUTION TO NO 1577 ACROSS: 1 Wreath 5 Swab 9 Popular 10 Actual 11 Misogyny 12 O'Casey 15 Shaloom 18 Peter Pan 20 Sample 22 Drifter 23 Sage 24 Defend DOWN: 2 Repair 3 Asphalt 4 Molly 6 Whet 7 Patron 8 Crayon 13 Aperitif 14 Impede 16 Hiatus 17 Patron 19 Triad 21 Plug

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE! The Times Crossword titles are available to buy from the Times Bookshop...

Real extend Europe's run

REAL MADRID were crowned world club champions for the first time since 1960 when they beat Vasco da Gama, of Brazil, 2-1 to win the World Club Cup in Tokyo yesterday. Marshallled superbly by Fernando Hierro and Manuel Sanchis at the back and inspired by Raul in attack, Real gave a battling display that was ultimately too good for the Brazilians. Also on the agenda is the idea of playing second XI games on uncovered pitches. Those old enough to remember the days before full covering in 1981 speak of a subsequent decline in technique among batsmen and accuracy among bowlers. With most of the delegates fitting into this category the resolution has every chance of succeeding.

ZENITH Swiss watchmakers since 1865 LIFE IS IN THE MOVEMENT FLY-BACK El Primero

England suffer Perry blow

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MATT PERRY, the young Bath full back, will miss the international between England and South Africa at Twickenham on Saturday after being concussed in the closing stages of the game with Australia. He will take the mandatory three-week rest which leaves a place open for Nick Beal, of Northampton, or Mike Catt, depending on injuries elsewhere in the squad. Perry, 21, has missed only one game since winning the first of his 14 caps against Australia last year, that against France in February. His scorching run established the position from which Jeremy Guscott scored the only try of the match last Saturday and there was no obvious sign of concussion in the immediate aftermath. However, the England medical team ruled him out when the squad assembled yesterday, a squad augmented by David Rees, the Sale wing, and Alex King, the Wasps fly-half. It has taken Rees eight

months to overcome a groin injury, but he is an obvious threat to Austin Healey's place while King provides cover in the event of Paul Grayson being unable to play. Grayson's condition, along with that of Will Greenwood, of Leicester, will be monitored today before the England

team is named tomorrow. If the Northampton fly half has not recovered fully from a knee injury, Catt is likely to play in the No 10 jersey: the thoughts of Clive Woodward, the England coach, might have strayed to Jonathan Wilkinson, who played fly half against Australia and New Zealand during the summer tour of the southern hemisphere, but Wilkinson is also injured and misses not only a senior chance but a place in the under-21 international between England and South Africa that precedes the main event at Twickenham. Neither Garath Archer, displaced at lock by Tim Rodber, nor Tom Beim are required for squad training but Beal's hopes of a recall will be justifiably high. His form at full back has been a significant part of Northampton's rise to the top of the first division in the Allied Dunbar Premiership and, at 6ft 2in and 15st, he is very much in the modern idiom of backs with a powerful physique. The last of his six international appearances was as a replacement against The Netherlands last month, but he was capped three times in the southern hemisphere at centre.



Perry: concussed

Beal: opportunity

Match overload, page 42

Large advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Lords', 'ranborne', 'deal with', 'over play', 'voting', 'Br', 'taxe', 'change', 'China', 'Legal'.